

Use of Automated Search Tools for Scanning Department Resources

Identity Finder and Cornell Spider are powerful search and discovery tools available to UC Davis technical support staff for use in locating personal identity information within electronic communications resources. The discovery and protection of insecure personal identity information helps to reduce university risk related to unauthorized access to such information.

The University of California Electronic Communications Policy (ECP), <http://www.ucop.edu/ucophome/coordrev/policy/PP081805ECP.pdf>, permits campus unit system administrators to use automated search tools such as Identity Finder and Cornell Spider as part of an identity information search program. In the course of management-authorized use of automated search tools, a system administrator may view private identity information and/or share discovery about such information with the data custodian in order to ensure security measures are in place for data privacy. Authority for such inspection and reporting is provided in Section IV.C.2, of the Electronic Communications Policy:

System Monitoring. University employees who operate and support electronic communications resources regularly monitor transmissions for the purpose of ensuring reliability and security of University electronic communications resources and services (see Section V.B, Security Practices), and in that process might observe certain transactional information or the contents of electronic communications.

The ECP implementation guidelines require that prior to the initiation of any automated search for electronic personal identity information, an informational message be released to those whose electronic communication resources are subject of the scans. This message should describe the date/times of the scan and, where possible, proactive measures that could be taken to remove known identity information from electronic storage in advance of the scanning.

If you have questions pertaining to this policy interpretation, please contact the campus IT Security Coordinator, raono@ucdavis.edu.

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