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# U.S. National Archives offers reward for missing hard drive

Missing external hard drive at the National Archives contains names and Social Security numbers of White House visitors and staffers during Clinton administration.

by **Elinor Mills** @elinormills / May 20, 2009 5:08 PM PDT / Updated: May 20, 2009 5:32 PM PDT

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The U.S. National Archives on Wednesday said it is offering a \$50,000 reward for information leading to the recovery of a missing hard drive that contains personal information of former Clinton administration staff and visitors.

The small portable hard drive was being kept as a backup, the National Archives explained in a **question-and-answer document (PDF)** on its Web site. It held copies of about 113 four-millimeter tape cartridges of "snapshots" of hard-drive contents of employees who left the Executive Office of the President.

Because the staff maintained White House entry information and electronic address books, the external drive contains personally identifying information including names and Social Security numbers of staff and visitors to the White House complex during the Clinton administration, the FAQ said.

National Archives staff began searching for the missing drive March 24 and notified senior officials at the agency on April 2. The National Archives' inspector general then opened a criminal investigation and the agency informed the U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team of the Department of Homeland Security, the White House Counsel's Office, staff of the House and Senate Oversight



National Archives and Records Administration

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Committees, and a representative for former President Bill Clinton.

The National Archives will notify the individuals affected and offer them a year of credit monitoring. It is unknown how many people are affected, according to the FAQ.

"We do not know whether the drive was stolen, lost, or otherwise misplaced," the FAQ said.

**Tags:** Security

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**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**



**Elinor Mills** /

Elinor Mills covers Internet security and privacy. She joined CNET News in 2005 after working as a foreign correspondent for Reuters in Portugal and writing for The Industry Standard, the IDG News Service, and the Associated Press. [E-mail Elinor.](#) [See full bio](#)

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