

JOHN CHRISTIAN ANDERSON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: John Christian Anderson
4520 Mockingbird Lane
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Email: rloveanderson@gmail.com
Date: 12/07/2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Included with this cover page are details and communications regarding a security breach of the North Carolina State Election Information Management System (SEIMS). Notification of the release of this information was provided first to the NC State Board of Elections, and subsequently to members of the NC General Assembly.

JOHN CHRISTIAN ANDERSON

Tel (919) 394 8774
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12/05/2014

Senator Phil Berger, President Pro Tempore
North Carolina Senate
NC General Assembly
16 West Jones St
Raleigh, NC 27601

House Standing Committee on Elections
NC House of Representatives
NC General Assembly
16 West Jones St
Raleigh, NC 27601

VIA EMAIL

RE: Administrative Credentials for SEIMS and Electronic Voting Machines
New Hanover County Board of Elections

Dear Honorable Ladies and Gentlemen of the NC General Assembly:

This letter is to provide written notification to you of a breach in the security of the electronic voting systems and processes in New Hanover County, NC. On dates including but not limited to 10/19/2014 and 11/03/2014, the staff of the New Hanover County Board of Elections released or caused to be released to the public sensitive security information related to the State Election Information Management System (SEIMS), as well as details of how to access the primary administrative accounts for electronic voting equipment. Included with this letter are two email documents that were posted on New Hanover County's public information server. The first email shown in exhibit 1 contains the intranet username and password to access SEIMS for New Hanover County. The second email shown in exhibit 2 contains the primary administrative account credentials that the county elections department uses to download the SOSA executables to individual voting machines. I contacted the NC State Board of Elections on 12/05/2014 to determine if this information was, in fact, available to the public. Exhibit 3 is the response I received from the NC State Board of Elections to my request for this information, indicating that this information is not available to the public.

I am deeply disturbed that, despite the tremendous effort the state legislature has put forth to improve the security and hence the integrity of our elections, the carelessness with which secure credentialing information is being handled in New Hanover County puts the entire process in jeopardy and casts doubt on the results obtained. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to

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discuss this matter with you further. I can be reached at the above telephone number at your convenience.

“The integrity of elections comes down to a series of processes and procedures administered by each county, combined with the technology and its established procedures.” *From the Election Technology Center, an industry group representing voting equipment manufacturers.*

Sincerely,

John Christian Anderson

Cc: Senator Phil Berger, President Pro Tempore, NC State Senate

| From | To | Received | Subject | Size | Categories |
|---------------|------------------|-----------|-------------------------|------|------------|
| Bowens, Derek | McFadyen, Marvin | 11/3/2014 | FW: SEIMS Intranet site | 5 KB | |

Derek Bowens | Elections Supervisor
Elections | New Hanover County
230 Government Center Drive, Suite 38
Wilmington, NC 28403
(910) 798-7224 p | (910) 798-7295 f

From: Hunter-Havens, Rae
Sent: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 10:53 AM
To: McFadyen, Marvin
Cc: Bowens, Derek
Subject: SEIMS Intranet site

Marin,

The username name and password for the SEIMS Intranet site is listed below:

Username: sboe\new_hanover_boe
Password: Elections1!

According to Erika, the SBOE had to reconfigure our username because of the space in our county name.

Thanks,
Rae

Rae Hunter-Havens | Elections Systems Specialist
Elections | New Hanover County
230 Government Center Drive, Suite 38
Wilmington, NC 28403
(910) 798-7288 p | (910) 798-7295 f

EXHIBIT 2

From To Received Subject Size Categories
Bowens, Derek Smith, Sharon Lane 10/19/2014 RE: Administrative Rights 7 KB

Ok. Although unlikely, someone could hit the internet wand button on the laptop and all rights would be lost without anyone knowing at that point. I just want to make sure that all things are considered since we never had to deal with this issue until the primary.

From: Smith, Sharon Lane
Sent: Sunday, October 19, 2014 9:50 AM
To: Bowens, Derek; Peglow, Renee
Subject: Re: Administrative Rights

Yes once you connect to the network the account will not have admin rights. On Saturday after one stop we were going to add admin rights to the 25 devices. Why would the devices be placed on the network after one stop?

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE DROID

"Bowens, Derek" <dbowens@nhcgov.com> wrote:
Good morning,

As I was attempting to test the election day transfer process in training on machine "ELCT2CE11107CJ" using the local admin account (election), I noticed that I could not do the transfer because the local account had been removed from the admin group. As Mike Gomes stated previously, this could happen with a local admin account if it gets on the network as it is "not recognized".

After coming to the conclusion that this computer must have hit the network, I attempted to log in with the ElctAdm1! account. This account is the primary administrative account that the Elections department uses to download SOSA executables for One-Stop and Election Day. I also used this account to place the local "election" user in the administrative group. Once I logged into the computer with ElctAdm1!, I went to local users and groups to add the local election account back into the administrative group and got an error message stating my "Access was denied" as I did not have the rights to perform the task.

All that said, does the "ElctAdm1!" account loses its admin rights when it hits the network as well? If so, is there a way for us to prevent that from happening? Using the "ElctAdm1!" account is what election officials would use if the local election account could not perform the voter history transfer. If a computer accidentally hit the network between Nov 1st and Nov 4th, based on what I am seeing, the election official would not be able to use either account for the transfer since rights would have been lost. Please advise.

Thanks,

Derek Bowens | Elections Supervisor
Elections | New Hanover County
230 Government Center Drive, Suite 38
Wilmington, NC 28403
(910) 798-7224 p | (910) 798-7295 f

Sharon Lane Smith | Information Systems Supervisor
Information Technology | New Hanover County
230 Government Center Drive, Suite 155
Wilmington, NC 28403
(910) 798-7427 p | (910) 798-7196 f

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 27255
Raleigh, NC 27611-7255

Phone: (919) 733-7173
Fax: (919) 715-0135

KIM WESTBROOK STRACH
Executive Director



NORTH CAROLINA

State Board of Elections

December 5, 2014

VIA EMAIL

John Christian Anderson
rloveanderson@gmail.com

RE: Request for administrative credentials for the State Election Information Management System (SEIMS).

Dear Mr. Anderson:

I received today your correspondence requesting the above-referenced credentials for the State Board of Elections' SEIMS application. Such information is expressly exempted from public disclosure pursuant to N.C. GEN. STAT. § 132-6.1(c), which provides as follows:

Nothing in this section requires a public agency to disclose security features of its electronic data processing systems, information technology systems, telecommunications networks, or electronic security systems, including hardware or software security, passwords, or security standards, procedures, processes, configurations, software, and codes.

N.C. GEN. STAT. § 132-6.1(c). Accordingly, our Agency will not provide the credentialing information requested. Please contact me regarding any further questions you may have regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josh Lawson'.

Josh Lawson

Public Information Officer, North Carolina State Board of Elections

Cc: Kim Strach, Executive Director (via email: don.wright@ncsbe.gov)
Don Wright, General Counsel (via email: don.wright@ncsbe.gov)