

Federal Database Was Entered Illegally

The New York Times

April 23, 2011 Saturday, Late Edition - Final

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Section: Section A; Column 0; National Desk; Pg. 10

Length: 141 words

Byline: By THE NEW YORK TIMES

Body

WASHINGTON -- A former State Department contractor pleaded guilty Friday to **illegally** gaining access to a **database** containing the names, addresses and Social Security numbers of more than 250,000 **federal** workers.

According to documents filed in **Federal** District Court in Alexandria, Va., the former contractor, Kuang Hao Chou, worked until last year in the State Department's Office of Medical Services, where the data is stored.

The documents say Mr. Chou took one of the office's laptops home without permission and accessed the **database**. The police found the computer in November at Mr. Chou's home in Herndon, Va., during their investigation of an immigration fraud ring.

Mr. Chou and his wife, Ling Yu Hsieh, also pleaded guilty on Friday to buying fake green cards and naturalization certificates after **entering** the United States on tourist visas.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: PASSPORTS & VISAS (90%); US **FEDERAL** GOVERNMENT (90%); CIVIL SERVICES (90%); GUILTY PLEAS (90%); US SOCIAL SECURITY (90%); IMMIGRATION LAW (90%); CITIZENSHIP (88%); LAW ENFORCEMENT (78%); NATURALIZATION (77%); IMMIGRATION (73%); INVESTIGATIONS (68%)

Organization: POLICE FOUNDATION (57%)

Industry: LAPTOP COMPUTERS (69%)

Geographic: VIRGINIA, USA (92%); UNITED STATES (92%)

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Load-Date: April 23, 2011

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