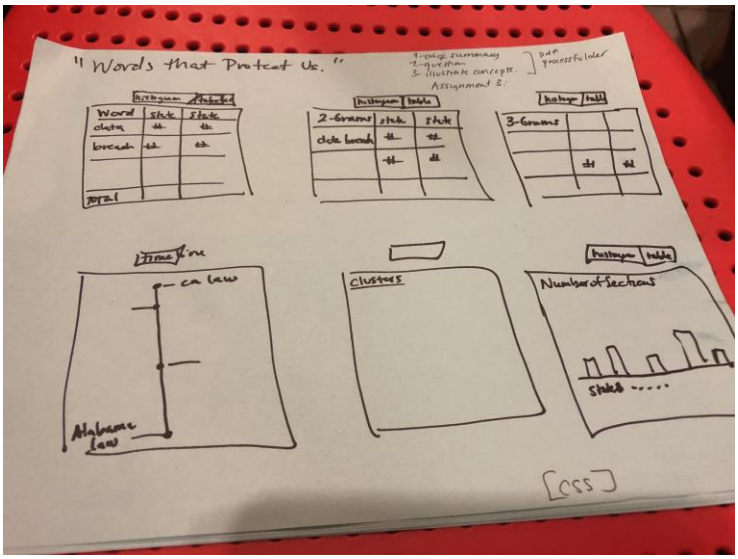
HIPAA Breaches in the United States of America

1. Words that Protect Us: A study of four data breach laws

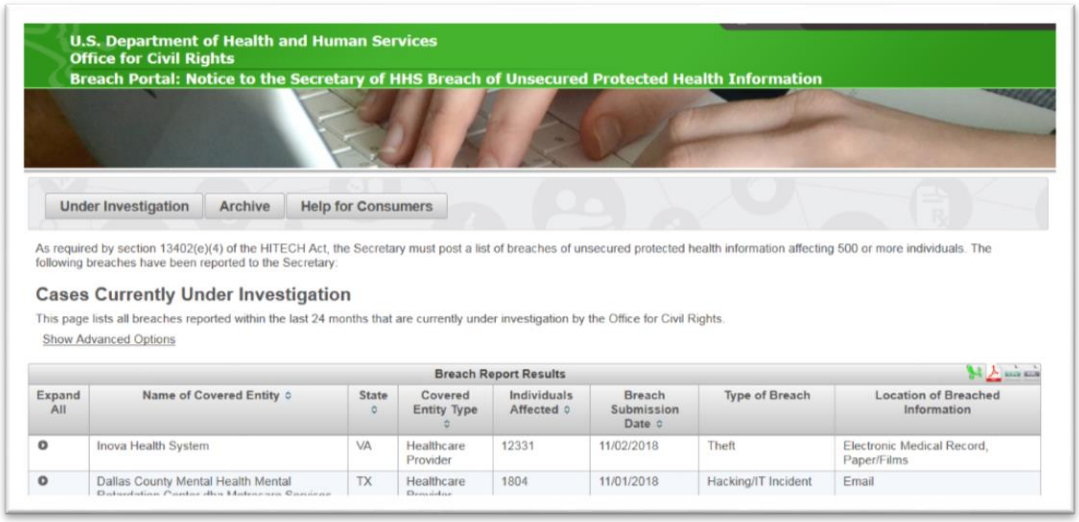
A Study of Databreach Laws which analyzes the "Words that Protect Us." Data breaches are happing around the globe. It is essential to understand differences in laws to understand how we are protected in the various states. This study examines state data breach laws across the United States of America as 2018 saw the adoption of data breach laws across all 50 states. The following are ten ideas related to the study of these laws:

1. Word count (e.g. term frequency) - which words are used in the law
2. Word clusters - Machine Learning - can we characterize the topics in the laws?
3. Date created - When were the laws created?
4. Number of words - How many words is each law?
5. Number of sections - How are the sections different across states?
6. Section titles - Machine Learning - How are the section titles different across states?
7. Date created political party in power - Is there any connection between created laws and the political parties involved?
8. Length of time to ratify law - How long did it take to ratify the laws across the USA?
9. Health and Human Services (HHS) Wall of Shame dates to law creation/revisions - Are there any data breach statistics which relate to the laws?
10. Number of law revisions/changes, etc. - Has there been any revisions to the state laws over time? If so, how and why?

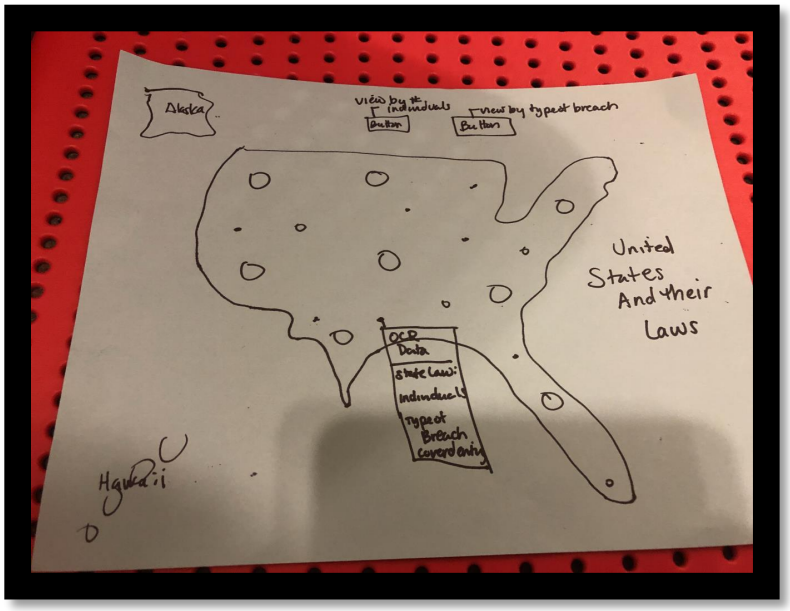


2. Have I been breached?: OCR Reported HIPAA Breaches Across the USA

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services's (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) maintains a "Breach Portal: Notice to the Secretary of HHS Breach of Unsecured Protected Health Information." The website, seen in the figure below is a tabular report which can be exported as a CSV.



This piece examines the OCR reported HIPAA breaches across the United States of America based on the public reporting of the OCR at https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/breach/breach_report.jsf. The visualization transforms the tabular data format into a geographic visualization, which allows further drill-down into specific breach information, as seen in the figure below.



3. States and their Laws: A Geographic Study of both the laws across the USA and OCR Reports

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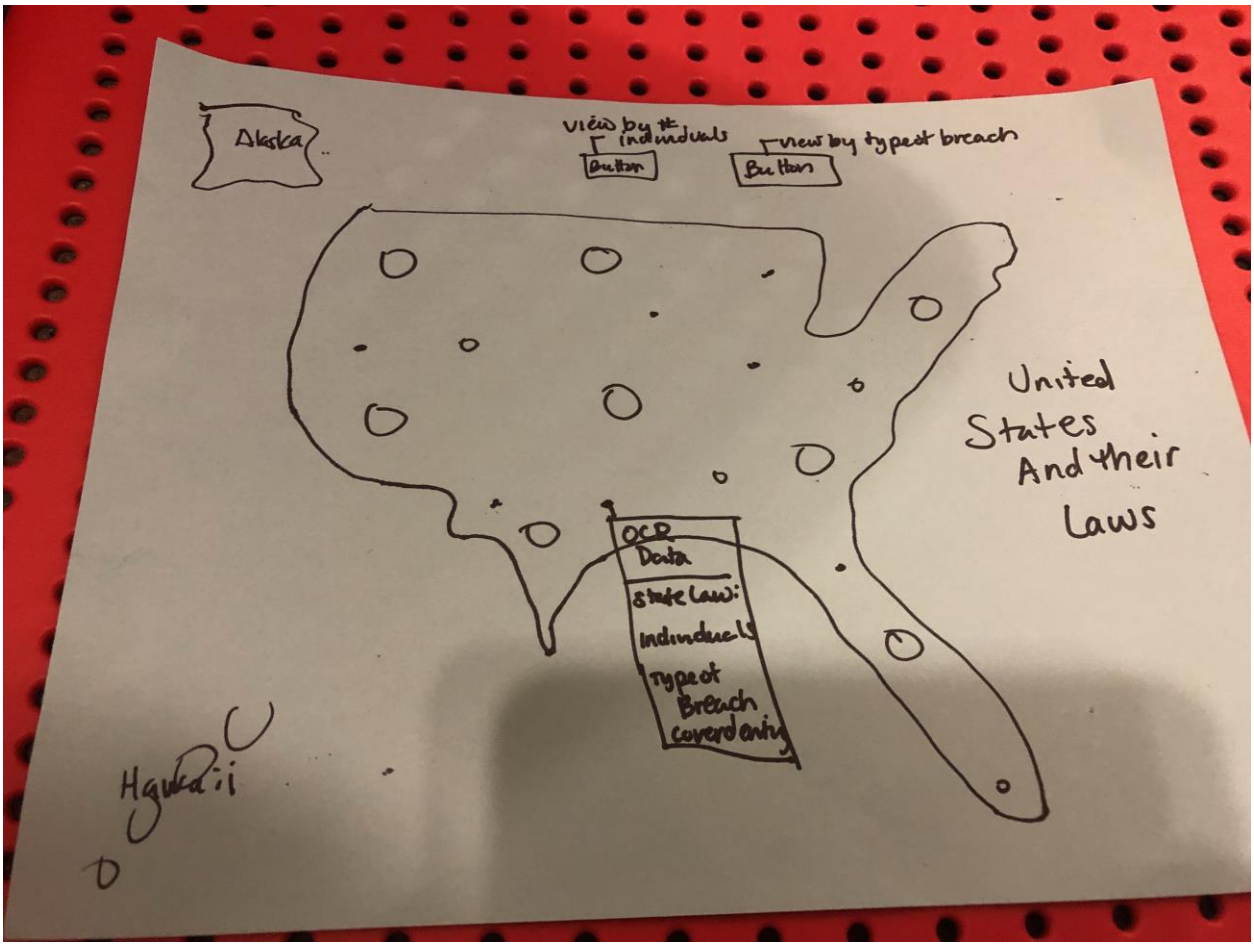
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