

**North Carolina Security Breach Reporting Form  
Pursuant to the Identity Theft Protection Act of 2005**

Name of Business Owning or Licensing Information Affected by the Breach: The Nature Conservancy  
Address: 4245 N. Fairfax Dr. Suite 100  
Arlington, VA 22203  
Telephone: (970) 221-2939 - Katherine Runnels  
Fax: (970) 206-0380  
Email: KRunnels@tnc.org

**PLEASE SUBMIT FORM TO:**  
Consumer Protection Division  
NC Attorney General's Office  
9001 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-9001  
Telephone: (919) 716-6000  
Toll Free in NC: (877) 566-7226  
FAX: (919) 716-6050

Date Security Breach Reporting Form submitted: 10/11/07 (letter sent 9/24/07)  
Date the Security Breach was discovered: 9/12/07  
Estimated number of affected individuals: 14,000  
Estimated number of NC residents affected: 290

Name of business maintaining or possessing information that was the subject of the Security Breach, if the business that experienced the Security Breach is not the same entity as the business reporting the Security Breach (pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 75-65(b)): \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the circumstances surrounding the Security Breach and state whether the information breached was in electronic or paper format: Individual employee computer accessed by hackers, data exported.

Regarding electronic information breached, state whether the information breached or potentially breached was password protected or encrypted in some manner. No by employee error. The Nature Conservancy has adequate security measures if properly used.

Describe any measures taken to prevent a similar Security Breach from occurring in the future: \_\_\_\_\_

Date affected NC residents were/will be notified: Current employees by email 9/21/07  
former employees by mail 10/3-10/5/07  
If there has been any delay in notifying affected NC residents, describe the circumstances surrounding the delay pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 75-65(a) and (c): \_\_\_\_\_

If the delay was pursuant to a request from law enforcement pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 75-65(c), please include the written request or the contemporaneous memorandum.

How NC residents were/will be notified? (pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 75-65(e))

- written notice - former employees
- electronic notice (email) - current employees
- telephone notice
- substitute notice

Please attach copy of the notice if in written form or a copy of any scripted notice if in telephonic form.

Signature: Katherine Runnels Date: 10/11/07  
Contact Person, Title: KATHERINE RUNNELS SENIOR ATTORNEY  
Address: 4409 WELLINGTON DR.  
FORT COLLINS, CO 80526  
Telephone: (970) 221-2939 Fax: (970) 206-0380 Email: KRunnels@tnc.org



Katherine W. Runnels  
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Fort Collins, CO 80526

tel [970] 221.2939  
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nature.org

October 11, 2007

Roy Cooper, Esq., Attorney General  
North Carolina Department of Justice  
Consumer Protection Division  
9001 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-9001

OCT 22 2007

ROY COOPER, ATTORNEY GENERAL

Dear Attorney General Cooper:

This is in reference to the notice we provided to you dated September 24, 2007 regarding a data security breach involving The Nature Conservancy.

In addition to the information provided in our original communication to your office (copy attached), we have since learned that the compromised computer contained data relating not only to current employees of The Nature Conservancy, but also to a number of former employees and certain of the dependents and beneficiaries of both current and former employees. This data included personal information such as Social Security numbers.

In addition to the original notice of the breach that we provided to current staff on Friday, September 21, 2007, we have notified current staff of the compromised dependent and beneficiary information. On October 3, 2007, we also began contacting former employees with information relevant to them and their related dependents and beneficiaries.

In light of this additional information, we wanted to update our notice to your office. We now believe the total number of individuals who may have been affected by this breach to be approximately 14,000. The updated number of potentially affected individuals residing in North Carolina is approximately 290 (number approximate because we are unable to verify the state of residence of all affected dependents and beneficiaries).

If you have any questions, please contact me at (970) 221-2939.

Very truly yours,

Katherine Runnels  
Senior Attorney  
The Nature Conservancy

cc: Philip Tabas, Vice President and General Counsel

September 24, 2007

Roy Cooper, Esq.  
Attorney General  
North Carolina Department of Justice  
Consumer Protection Division  
9001 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-9001

Dear Attorney General Cooper,

We are writing to inform you of a recent security incident that we discovered on September 12, 2007.

The Nature Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) non-profit conservation organization whose mission is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. The Conservancy is headquartered in Arlington, Virginia and has approximately 3,500 employees throughout the 50 United States and in 29 countries outside the U.S.

On September 12, 2007, we discovered that we have been the victims of a hacking incident in which unauthorized individuals compromised the security of one of our computers. We took immediate steps to secure the computer to prevent further unauthorized access. Unfortunately, the computer contained Human Resources related information. We are currently cooperating with the F.B.I. to investigate the incident and determine the personal information that was accessed or acquired. The database included names, home addresses, Social Security numbers and possibly financial account numbers. While we do not know for sure whether the information was accessed or acquired, we have given notice to potentially affected individuals so that they can take action to protect themselves.

Through our internal investigation following the incident, we have determined that personal information regarding approximately 3,500 individuals may have been affected by the breach including 71 individuals residing in North Carolina. Potentially affected individuals were notified on September 21, 2007; copy attached.

Please contact me at (970) 221-2939 if you have questions.

Very Truly Yours,



Katherine W. Runnels  
Senior Attorney  
The Nature Conservancy

CC: Philip Tabas, General Counsel

Attachment (notice letter to employees)