

From the Washingtonpost.com Brian Krebs on Computer Security 2/3/2006

[Simson L. Garfinkel](#) from Harvard University presented [more research](#) on how far too many businesses are leaving customer data on their computer hard drives when auctioning them on eBay or handing them over to liquidators. Simson has purchased nearly 1,000 hard drives off eBay and managed to track several of them back to their original owners.

One drive from a supermarket held 5,182 credit card numbers, while another from a bank ATM contained some 346 numbers. Another drive, which Simson traced back to a medical center, held more than 11,609 unique account numbers.

Simson said he's disturbed by the number of eBayers apparently willing to pay inordinate amounts of money for relatively old and small hard drives. "Drives that were used on servers are much more likely to contain sensitive and confidential data, and probably 30 percent of [drives on eBay] haven't been wiped. Nobody would legitimately buy a four-gigabyte server drive off eBay."

<http://www.simson.net/blog/>

<http://www.simson.net/ref/2006/black-hat.pdf>