

# How to Solve a Personal Information Loss Problem

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**T**he best first step toward solving an information loss problem does not involve hiring a technical specialist to search for bugs, taps and spycams. The real best first step: doesn't cost a penny; may be easily accomplished yourself; and will solve the problem.

## **"Why not conduct an eavesdropping inspection first?"**

- If you do find an eavesdropping device, all you really have is a piece of hardware ...and an eavesdropper who knows you are suspicious, is still free to do it again and will do a better job of hiding it the next time.
- If your 'detective' does not find an eavesdropping device, all you really have is continued uncertainty and less money.
- The information loss may not even involve electronic surveillance. Leaks also occur in other ways.

## **These are your primary goals...**

- Prove that the information loss is really taking place.
- Prove that the information could only have been obtained by a particular person via illegal means.
- Determine what methods, techniques were used to illegally obtain your information.
- Show a 'cause and effect' relationship between the criminal and the crime. Circumstantial evidence.

## **How to accomplish these goals...**

*Spybuster Tip #303 -- Test for Leaks!*

Suspected information leaks can be verified and tracked to their source. Conduct each one of the following tests using a **different, very specific, piece of information** each time.

The type of spying being used will be revealed by which tidbit of leaked information surfaces.

- 1. Selectively salt one-on-one conversations with false bits of information. One tidbit per person being tested. This reveals loose-lips and false friends.**
- 2. Prearrange a telephone conversation with a trusted party. Discuss one interesting (but false and unique) item. If word gets out, suspect a wiretap.**
- 3. Pretend you are talking on the phone. (Do not really use the phone at all.) Discuss something which is likely to get back to you. This test detects room bugs.**

**4. Create an interesting note to leave on your table or desk overnight. When word gets back you will know you had an intruder, and on which night.**

**5. Create an interesting note each night to leave crumpled or torn in half in the trash can. This detects surveillance via garbage archeology. A very common spy trick.**

**6. Create several copies of an interesting note. In each one, slightly alter a bit of information or punctuation. Distribute them to your suspects (remembering, of course, who has which copy). The copy that surfaces identifies your spy.**

## **These tests determine several things...**

- If an information loss is actually occurring; thus, eliminating *coincidence* as the cause.
- Was it caused by electronic eavesdropping?
- The method of eavesdropping or spying being used.
- The general location of the bug or wiretap.

*Bonus...* Testing (and carefully logging your results) gives you circumstantial evidence, which ties your spy to a crime.

**Important** - If you are getting positive results, test several times more using *different* pieces of information *each time*. Obtaining several positive results eliminates any "just a coincidence" defense the snooper might later offer.

**Next Steps...** Take your documentation to an attorney for a recommendation on how to proceed with your case (criminal, civil or both). The attorney may recommend an immediate inspection to document and recover the physical evidence of electronic surveillance. If so, contact us for further details on how to proceed.

## **The End Result...**

You *will know* if electronic eavesdropping is taking place; what method is being used; and you may be able to prosecute a case against the eavesdropper – which should end your problem.



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