

## **COMPROMISED INTERNET MAIL SERVICE PASSWORDS**

Over the weekend of October 3-4, it has been widely reported there was a potentially large scale compromise of passwords from multiple Internet mail services, beginning with Microsoft's Hotmail but also including Gmail, MSN, Yahoo, and possibly others.

If you have personal Internet email accounts, it is recommended that you change your password(s). If you use these passwords elsewhere those accounts should be changed, as well. Passwords for personal accounts of any type should not be the same as any of your DOE/work accounts. Please remember to use strong passwords. For example, use upper and lower case letters, special characters and numbers in combination. The longer the password is, the more secure it tends to be.

Additionally, you should not provide personal or account information in emails. Remember that email service providers (i.e., Hotmail, Google, etc.) should never request you to provide account names or passwords for any reason.