

Appendix A: Committee Charge

The project will examine the current state of personal information data mining across a broad selection of industries and applications. Important goals of the project are to identify industries that use data mining to collect personal information about individuals and to evaluate how effective these techniques are at fulfilling the industry's needs. The report will evaluate the effectiveness of data mining techniques, both those currently in use and those under development in research. The report will also examine the threat to privacy that data mining imposes. Case studies will be conducted in the discipline of homeland security, health care, or consumer retail (to be decided by the committee).

Specific subjects to be addressed in the study will include:

1. Which industries or disciplines use data mining to collect personal information about consumers or citizens?
2. What techniques do these industries use? What techniques are being developed and are they better than the current techniques?
3. What goals are these industries trying to achieve through data mining?
4. How do these industries measure success in achieving these goals? Is the knowledge that they gain from data mining useful and relevant?
5. What are the privacy concerns associated with data mining? How can consumers or citizens protect their privacy?
6. How will personal information data mining change the way that industries operate in the future?
7. What should the government's role be, if any, in the use or regulation of data mining?