Spirion

What is it?

- Brandeis ITS Security utilizes Spirion (formerly known as Identity Finder) to detect instances of PII (credit card numbers and Social Security numbers) on university-owned Windows and Mac workstations.

Why is it needed?

- Theft of a laptop or desktop with files containing PII is technically a data breach event. Spirion is one of several protections we have in place in case of such an event.
  - If a laptop is lost or stolen, Spirion will tell us what (if any) PII was on the machine and what users are affected
  - Ideally, users will actively remove PII using Spirion.

Do I have the right version?

- The current supported version of Spirion is 10.0.3.

When does it run?

- Spirion runs a weekly search on Thursday mornings.

I received a notification from ITS Security that I have PII on my workstation - what do I do?

- Users who have >1000 results on their workstation currently receive a weekly notification on Tuesdays at midnight containing the location of files with PII.
  - If you need the files: please move them to Box (https://brandeis.box.com)
  - If you do not need the files: please delete them (make sure to empty your Trash or Recycle Bin)

Does Spirion delete my files?

- Except in very specific cases, no. ITS Security works with users to remove PII manually.
  - However, ITS Security is working on an initiative to automatically "shred" or delete files that contain PII that are located:
    - In the Windows Recycle Bin
    - In the Windows AppData folder
  - Most users are typically not aware that these files exist (in AppData) or still exist (Recycle Bin).
    - Just in case, an extra protection is put in - Spirion must have found the files at least 15 days before.
  - This initiative is not live yet and communications regarding it will be sent out later this year. We may expand to the Mac Trash after this.

Can I run my own search?

- Yes - follow the attached user guide.

I have more questions!

- Please contact security@brandeis.edu with any questions regarding Spirion or protecting PII and sensitive information.