



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
GREG ABBOTT

April 10, 2013

Ms. Neera Chatterjee  
Attorney and Public Information Coordinator  
Office of General Counsel  
The University of Texas System  
201 West Seventh Street  
Austin, Texas 78701

OR2013-05707

Dear Ms. Chatterjee:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 483724 (OGC# 148261).

The University of Texas at Dallas (the "university") received a request for the internal and external internet protocol ("IP") addresses used by four named individuals on five specified dates. You claim the submitted information is not public information under the Act. We have considered your argument and reviewed the submitted information.

You argue the submitted IP addresses do not constitute public information for purposes of the Act. The Act is applicable to "public information," which consists of:

information that is collected, assembled, or maintained under a law or ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official business:

- (1) by a governmental body; or
- (2) for a governmental body and the governmental body owns the information or has a right of access to it.

Gov't Code § 552.002(a). In Open Records Decision No. 581 (1990), this office determined certain computer information that has no significance other than its use as a tool for the

maintenance, manipulation, or protection of public property, such as source codes, documentation information, and other computer programming, is not the kind of information made public under section 552.021 of the Government Code. *See* ORD 581 at 6 (construing predecessor statute).

You indicate the submitted IP addresses have no significance other than their use as tools for the maintenance, manipulation, or protection of public property. We disagree. The information at issue pertains to the use of university computers and networks by university employees. You do not indicate this usage of university computers was a *de minimis* personal usage by university employees not related to public business. Thus, we find the submitted IP addresses do have public significance other than their use as tools for the maintenance, manipulation, or protection of public property. Accordingly, we find the information at issue is public information subject to the Act. As you raise no exceptions to disclosure, the submitted information must be released.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at [http://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/index\\_orl.php](http://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/index_orl.php), or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act must be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the Office of the Attorney General, toll free at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Vanessa Burgess  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

VB/dls

Ref: ID# 483724

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)