

## **WaitList.dat: This Windows file may be secretly hoarding your passwords and emails**

A little-known Windows feature will create a file that stores text extracted from all the emails and plaintext-files found on your PC, which sometimes may reveal passwords or private conversations.

If you're one of the people who own a stylus or touchscreen-capable Windows PC, then there's a high chance there's a file on your computer that has slowly collected sensitive data for the past months or even years.

This file is named WaitList.dat, and according to Digital Forensics and Incident Response (DFIR) expert Barnaby Skeggs, this file is only found on touchscreen-capable Windows PCs where the user has enabled the handwriting recognition feature [1, 2] that automatically translates stylus/touchscreen scribbles into formatted text.

Once it is on, text from every document and email which is indexed by the Windows Search Indexer service is stored in WaitList.dat. Not just the files interacted via the touchscreen writing feature.

Not all users may be storing passwords in emails or text-based files on their PCs, but those who do are advised to delete the file or disable "Personalized Handwriting Recognition" feature in their operating system's settings panel.

See: <https://www.zdnet.com/article/this-windows-file-may-be-secretly-hoarding-your-passwords-and-emails>