

THE WHITE HOUSE ON MISSING EMAILS

January 23, 2006:

“[W]e have learned that not all e-mail of the Office of the Vice President and the Executive Office of the President for certain time periods on 2003 was preserved through the normal archiving process on the White House computer system.” (Letter from Special Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald to Scooter Libby defense attorneys in conjunction with Valerie Plame matter)

April 13, 2007:

“I wouldn't rule out that there were a potential 5 million emails lost.” (Press Gaggle by Dana Perino).

April 16, 2007:

“[W]e are aware that there could have been some emails that were not automatically archived because of a technical issue.” (Press Briefing by Dana Perino).

September 19, 2007:

White House briefing to staff of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee during which House staff are shown a chart that indicates 473 days during which various offices in the Executive Office of the President register no archived e-mails and other days when various offices had unusually low e-mail counts.

December 4, 2007:

“CREW has yet to provide any basis for their assertions -- be it their original assertion, or their new claim. We are aware that some e-mails may not have been automatically archived in the past, but they may be available on backup tapes. Unlike what the liberal group CREW has asserted, we've never been without a backup system.” (Scott Stanzel, White House Spokesman).

January 15, 2008:

“I am aware of a chart created by a former employee within the OCIO that purports to identify certain dates and EOP components for which the chart's creator appears to have concluded that certain EOP components were missing emails on certain dates in the 2003-2005 time period. . . . The OCIO has reviewed the chart and has so far been unable to replicate its results or to affirm the correctness of the assumptions underlying it. . . . ”

“At this stage, this office does not know if any emails were not properly preserved in the archiving process.”

Payton discloses that Executive Office of the President recycled backup tapes prior to October 2003. (First Declaration of Theresa Payton, Chief Information Officer).

January 17, 2008:

“[W]e have absolutely no reason to believe that any emails are missing; there's no evidence of that.” (Press Briefing by Tony Fratto).

February 21, 2008:

[Discussing email inventory process conducted by OCIO in October 2005] “When the data was tabulated it became clear that a problem existed because there were days for which no email was retained. Extensive testing was performed at that time to ensure that the tools and the tabulation processed was performed correctly. An independent verification and validation was also perform[ed] by a different set of contractors to ensure that this analysis process was completed correctly and that the data was correctly analyzed and represented. . . . [T]he team identified hundreds of days for which the volume of email was inexplicably low.”

(Interrogatory Responses of Steven McDevitt, former Supervisor Information Technology Specialist, OCIO).

February 26, 2008

“Some of the promising trends that we've been seeing is we have identified more e-mails for that exact time period that was looked at in 2005 and was previously identified. We have been able to identify and locate e-mails within Exchange for days that were previously red [meaning no e-mails are recorded for the office or component]. There are, in this phase one, some dates that still show as red.” (House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Hearing on Electronic Records Preservation at the White House, testimony of Theresa Payton).

“We still have .pst files that we have not been able to associate with a component. . . They contain 17 million e-mails.” (House Oversight Hearing, Payton testimony).

March 21, 2008:

Payton claims that the Executive Office of the President has replaced all computers in use between 2003 and 2005 and discloses that their hard drives have been destroyed.