

Editor's Comment



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THE fiasco that is the 2016 Australian National Census has highlighted many of the issues with the online world in the most dramatic of ways.

Cited as a way to save \$100m and make life easier for the public, and the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the big night turned into an unmitigated disaster, with millions of Australian's unable to log on, and those two million that did manage to get through before the site closed now seriously worried about the integrity of their personal data.

For the ABS to give an unequivocal guarantee that your data entered online is secure is plainly nonsense when hackers can get into the Pentagon.

Whether the Census will now even be completed by the necessary numbers of the public is up in the air, potentially rendering the whole exercise futile.

Contrast this with the print version, where hacking of your data cannot take place, either in data entry or transfer stage, or in storage which is off line.

But the print run this time was slashed by two thirds, although that was upped as hundreds of thousands of people demanded a print version.

Print and paper lobbyist Kellie Northwood makes the point that online is not a synonym for innovation, and the 2016 Census shambles has shown that to be the case in the clearest way imaginable.