

Personal Factors Often Linked With Malicious Insiders

The following personal factors have been associated with malicious insiders.

Personal or Behavioral Problems



- Vulnerable to blackmail: Involved in extra marital affairs, gambling, or fraud.
- Experiencing family/financial problems:
 - Experiencing marital conflicts or separation from loved ones.
 - Burdened with excessive debt or overwhelming expenses.
 - Having the belief that money can fix all problems.
- Prone to compulsive/destructive behavior: Involved in drug or alcohol abuse or other addictive behaviors.
- Subject to ego/self-image issues:
 - Having an “above the rules” attitude, or a desire to repair wounds to self-esteem.
 - Vulnerable to flattery or the promise of a better job.

Personal Desires



- Seeking adventure/thrill: Feeling a need to add excitement to one’s life or intrigued by clandestine activity.
- Seeking approval and returned favors: Having a desire to please or win the approval of someone who could benefit from insider information with the expectation of returned favors.
- Professing allegiance¹: Professing allegiance to another person or company, or to a country besides the United States.

Workplace Issues



- Experiencing problems at work:
 - Facing termination due to substandard performance or workforce reduction.
 - Experiencing other problems associated with assigned duties, performance, or other work-related issues.
- Feeling anger or need for revenge: Overly hostile feelings toward supervisors, coworkers, or the organization.

¹Note: Insiders acting for ideological or allegiance reasons may exhibit few outward signs to managers and coworkers.

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation