

8 January 2008

By: Bogdan Popa, Security and Search Engines Editor



Jeremy Clarkson  
bbc.co.uk

## [Top Gear Host Loses Money after His Bank Account Got Published in The Sunday Times](#)

*How does it sound? Making your account available to million of people*

Jeremy Clarkson, famous for hosting the Top Gear TV series, lost about 500 pounds after someone managed to set up a direct debit transfer to the charity Diabetes UK, BBC News informed today. And all of this happened after the popular TV presenter decided to publish his bank account details into the newspaper, just to prove that the entire trouble caused around the HMRC data loss that affected 25 million people was only "a fuss about nothing", as the same source noted. So, he published his account into the newspaper and he even gave tips about finding his address that might be useful in exploiting the bank account. "All you'll be able to do with them is put money into my account. Not take it out. Honestly, I've never known such a palaver about nothing", he said according to BBC News. Call it insanity, call it the need of adrenaline, call it whatever you like, but I really don't think I would ever do that because it is an incredible dangerous action. And Jeremy Clarkson now knows it. Even if he offered only a few details, somebody managed to set up a 500 pounds direct debit transfer to the charity Diabetes UK. "I opened my bank statement this morning to find out that someone has set up a direct debit which automatically takes £500 from my account. The bank cannot find out who did this because of the Data Protection Act and they cannot stop it from happening again. I was wrong and I have been punished for my mistake", he commented according to the same source. And I guess the HMRC data loss was not only "a fuss about nothing" and it can really have serious consequences, even if only a few details were included in the lost discs. "Contrary to what I said at the time, we must go after the idiots who lost the discs and stick cocktail sticks in their eyes until they beg for mercy", Jeremy Clarkson concluded.