

By now you've probably heard about the incident a couple of weeks ago in which some emails, data files, and fortran source code were stolen from the University of East Anglia (UK) Climate Research Unit and uploaded to various web sites. The correspondence is being used to claim that CRU and other climate scientists were manipulating data to exaggerate global warming and colluding to prevent skeptics from having a voice. While some of the personal comments about skeptics are embarrassing, the incident primarily represents woeful misrepresentation of the scientists' words (e.g., where 'trick' was used to mean 'clever way to solve a problem', not 'deception') has been blown out of all proportion.

Furthermore, few if any of the scientific conclusions on global warming rests on the matters discussed. The fact is that two other research centers (NASA GISS and National Climatic Data Center) have performed their own analyses fairly independently over the years and they all reach virtually the same conclusions.

For a thorough and reasonably balanced summary of the drama, see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climatic_Research_Unit_e-mail_hacking_incident