
THE PRIVACY, DATA PROTECTION AND CYBERSECURITY LAW REVIEW

EDITOR
ALAN CHARLES RAUL

LAW BUSINESS RESEARCH

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EDITOR'S PREFACE

The first edition of *The Privacy, Data Protection and Cybersecurity Law Review* appears at a time of extraordinary policy change and practical challenge for this field of law and regulation. In the United States, massive data breaches have vied with Edward Snowden and foreign state-sponsored hacking to make the biggest impression on both policymakers and the public. In Europe, the ‘right to be forgotten’, the draconian new penalties proposed in the draft Data Protection Regulation and the Snowden leaks, have significantly altered the policy landscape.

Moreover, the frenetic conversion of the global economy to an increasingly digital, internet-driven model is also stimulating a rapid change in privacy, data protection and cybersecurity laws and regulations. Governments are playing catch-up with technological innovation. It is reported that half the world’s population will be online by 2016 and the economies of emerging nations (except, perhaps, in Africa) are being developed directly through electronic commerce rather than taking the intermediate step of industrial growth as Western economies did. Growth and change in this area is accelerating, and rapid changes in law and policy are to be expected.

In France, whistle-blowing hotlines are meticulously regulated, but now, in certain key areas like financial fraud or corruption, advance authorisation for the hotlines is automatic under a 2014 legal amendment. In Singapore, 2014 saw the first enforcement matter under that country’s Personal Data Protection Act – imposing a financial penalty on a company that sent unsolicited telemarketing messages. In Russia, a new 2014 ‘forced localisation’ law requires data about Russians to be stored on servers in-country rather than wherever the data can be most efficiently managed and processed, and jurisdictions around the world have debated enacting such proposals. Interestingly, while notice of the location of the relevant servers must be provided to the Russian data protection authority, it is not clear whether the law prohibits personal data to be simultaneously stored both in-country and in foreign servers.

The European Union continues to seek to extend its model for data protection regulation around the world by deeming only countries that adopt the ‘omnibus’ legislative approach of the EU to be ‘adequate’ for data protection purposes. The EU model is not being universally endorsed, even outside the US and the Asia and Pacific

Economic Cooperation (APEC) economies. But nonetheless, the EU's constraints on international data transfers have substantially inhibited the ability of multinational companies to move personal data around the world efficiently for business purposes. In particular, conflicts with the US abound, exacerbated by the Snowden leaks regarding US government surveillance. One of the primary methods by which such EU-US data flows are facilitated, the US-EU Safe Harbor regime, has come under attack from EU parliamentarians who believe that such information will not be as carefully protected in the US and could become more susceptible to surveillance, despite the comparable surveillance authorities of EU intelligence agencies.

While policy conflicts over data protection conflicts appeared to be moderating before the Snowden leaks, afterwards, officials around the world professed to be so shocked that governments were conducting surveillance against possible terrorists that they appear to have decided that US consumer companies should pay the price. Some observers believe that digital trade protection, and the desire to promote regional or national 'clouds', play some role in the antagonism leveled against US internet and technology companies.

The fact that the US does not have an omnibus data protection law, and thus does not have a top-level privacy regulator or coordinator, means that it has been difficult for the US to explain and advocate for its approach to protecting personal information. This has allowed the EU to fill a perceived policy void by denying mutual recognition to US practices, and to impose significant extraterritorial regulatory constraints on American and other non-European businesses.

Nevertheless, it cannot be denied that privacy enforcement in the US is distinctly more aggressive and punitive than anywhere else in the world, including the EU. Substantial investigations and financial recoveries have been conducted and achieved by the Federal Trade Commission (which has comprehensive jurisdiction over consumer data and business practices), 50 state attorneys general (who have even broader jurisdiction over consumer protection and business acts and practices), private class action lawyers who can bring broad legal suits in federal and state courts, and a plethora of other federal and state agencies, such as the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Federal Communications Commission, the Department of Health and Human Services (for medical and health-care data), the Department of Education, the Securities and Exchange Commission and various banking and insurance agencies.

In sum, there are no shortage of privacy regulators and enforcers in the US, Europe, and Asia. Enforcement in South America, as well as Africa and the Middle East appears to be developing more slowly.

Trumping many other privacy concerns, however, is the spate of data breaches and hacking that have been epidemic and part of public discourse in the years following California's enactment of the first data breach notification law in 2003. While the US appears (as a consequence of mandatory reporting) to be suffering the bulk of major cyberattacks – on retailers, financial institutions and companies with intellectual property worth stealing by foreign competitors or governments – it is also true that the US is leading the rest of the world on data breach notification laws and laws requiring that companies adopt affirmative data security safeguards for personal information.

For corporate and critical infrastructure networks and databases, the US has also led the way with a presidential executive order and the Cybersecurity Framework

developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology in the US Department of Commerce. The United Kingdom has also been a leader in this area, developing the UK CyberEssentials programme, which will soon include an option for companies to be certified as compliant with the programme's cybersecurity standards. The EU Parliament has also enacted cybersecurity directives, and the EU's European Network and Information Security Agency has provided extensive and expert analysis, guidance and recommendations for promoting cybersecurity for EU-based organisations.

Despite attempts to implement baselines for cyber safeguards, it appears that no one is immune and no organisation is sufficiently protected to have any confidence that it can avoid being the victim of successful cyberattacks, particularly by the sophisticated hackers employed by state sponsors, organised crime, social hacktivists or determined, renegade insiders (like Snowden). Government agencies and highly resourced private companies have been unable to prevent their networks from being penetrated, and sometimes are likely to identify 'advanced persistent threats' months after the malware has begun executing its malicious purposes. This phenomenally destructive situation cannot obtain, and presumably some more effective solutions will have to be identified, developed and implemented. What those remedies will be, however, is not at all clear as 2014 yields to 2015.

In the coming year, it would seem plausible that there could be efforts at international cooperation on cybersecurity as well as cross-border enforcement against privacy violators. Enforcers in the EU, US and among the APEC economies, may increasingly agree to work together to promote the shared values embodied in the 'fair information practices principles' that are common to most national privacy regimes. In early 2014, a step in this direction was taken when APEC and the European Union's Article 29 Working Party (on Data Protection) jointly released a framework by which international data transfers could be effectuated pursuant to the guidelines of both organisations.

Challenges and conflicts will continue to be factors with respect to: assurances of privacy protection 'in the cloud'; common understandings of limits on and transparency of government access to personal data stored either in the cloud, or by internet companies and service providers; differences about how and when information can be collected in Europe (and perhaps some other countries) and transmitted to the US for civil discovery and law enforcement or regulatory purposes; freedom of expression for internet posts and publications; the ability of companies to market on the internet and to track – and profile – users online through cookies and other persistent identifiers; and the deployment of drones for commercial and governmental data acquisition purposes.

The biggest looming issue of them all, however, will likely be 'big data'. This is a highly promising practice – based on data science and analytics – that collects and uses enormous quantities of disparate (and often unstructured) data, and applies creative new algorithms enabled by vastly cheaper and more powerful computer power and storage. Big data can discover helpful new patterns and make useful new predictions about health problems, civic needs, commercial efficiencies, and yes, consumer interests and preferences.

The potential social utility of big data has been unequivocally acknowledged by the US administration as well as by the key policymakers in the EU. But, big data challenges the existing privacy paradigm of notice and disclosure to individuals who are then free to

make choices about how and when their data can be used and collected. Many existing and proposed applications of big data only work if the vast stores of data collected by today's companies can be maintained and analysed irrespective of purpose limitations. Such limitations may have been relevant (and disclosed) at the point of collection, but no longer address the value of the data to companies and consumers who can benefit from big data applications. Numerous highly thoughtful reports by policymakers in the US and EU have noted concerns about the possibility that unfettered big data applications could result in hidden discrimination against certain demographic groups that might be difficult to identify and correct; or could result in undue profiling of individuals that might inhibit their autonomy, limit their financial, employment, insurance or even serendipitous choices, or possibly somehow encroach on their personal privacy (to the extent that otherwise aggregate or anonymous data can be re-identified).

This publication arrives at a time of enormous ferment for privacy, data protection and cybersecurity. Readers are invited to provide any suggestions for the next edition of this compendium, and we look forward to seeing how the many fascinating and consequential issues addressed here will evolve or develop in the next year.

Alan Charles Raul
Sidley Austin LLP
Washington, DC
November 2014

Appendix 1

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Alan Raul is the founder and lead global coordinator of Sidley Austin LLP's highly ranked privacy, data security and information law practice. He represents companies on federal, state and international privacy issues, including global data protection and compliance programmes, data breaches, cybersecurity, consumer protection issues and internet law. Mr Raul's practice involves litigation and acting as counsel in consumer class actions and data breaches, as well as FTC, state attorney general, Department of Justice and other government investigations, enforcement actions and regulation. Mr Raul provides clients with perspective gained from extensive government service. He previously served as vice chairman of the White House Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, general counsel of the Office of Management and Budget, general counsel of the US Department of Agriculture and associate counsel to the President. He currently serves as a member of the Privacy, Intellectual Property, Technology and Antitrust Litigation Advisory Committee of the National Chamber Litigation Center (affiliated with the US Chamber of Commerce). Mr Raul also serves on the American Bar Association's Cybersecurity Legal Task Force, by appointment of the ABA President. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Mr Raul holds degrees from Harvard College, Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, and Yale Law School.

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