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Updating the Law on Government Access to Your Online Data



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When does the Constitution protect our privacy?

"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

- Fourth Amendment (1791)



What happens when data leaves your possession?



Ex parte Jackson (1877) – the Constitution protects letters in transit, requiring the government to get a warrant from a judge to open a letter in transit through the postal system

How does the law respond to disruptive technology?





Olmstead v. United States (1928)

– the Constitution does not protect
the privacy of phone calls in transit
through the telephone network



Courts and Congress catch up.

- 1967: Supreme Court reverses
 Olmstead: voice in transit is protected
 by the Constitution
- 1968: Congress adopts the federal
 Wiretap Act detailed procedures for
 issuing judicial warrants for
 interception of "wire or oral"
 communications in transit
- 1978: Congress adopts a parallel universe of rules for national security -FISA





Disruptive technology – a second wave

1969 – CompuServe founded – Internet introduces non-voice comms and stored comms

1977 – Commercial cell phone service introduced

Problem: Wiretap Act only covered "wire" or "oral" comms and only in transit.







Congress responds again - Electronic Communications Privacy Act 1986

- Required a warrant for all real-time access to content
 - Cell phone conversations
 - Email and other electronic communications

 However, allowed access without a warrant to some stored communications and other stored data



Two new waves of disruptive technology

"The Cloud"

 Under ECPA, many communications, documents and other items stored with a service provider are available to the government with a mere subpoena – no court order required, no probable cause of criminal conduct

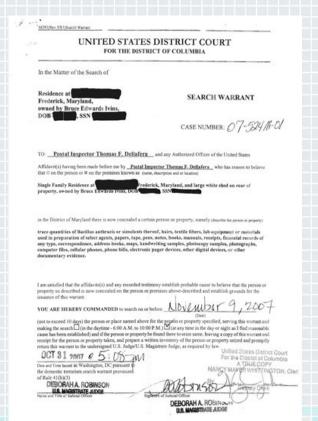
Location

 ECPA allows access to "records pertaining to a subscriber" without a judicial warrant and without a finding of probable cause



Warrant vs. subpoena - what's the diff?

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DIVISION District of Utah SEALED In the Matter of the Search of (Name, address or brief description of person or property to he searched) APPLICATION AND AFFIDAVIT FOR SEARCH WARRANT Case Number: 2:09 . MJ . 212 A I. PATRICK G. BROSNAN, being duly sworn depose and say: I am a Special Agent and have reason to believe that /_/ on the person of or / X/ on the premises known as (name, description and/or SEE ATTACHMENT A, attached to this application and incorporated herein by reference in the District of Utah there is now concealed a certain person or property, namely, (describe the person or property) SEE ATTACHMENT B, attached to this application and incorporated herein by reference which is (give alleged grounds for search and seizure under Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure) Believed to be properly that constitutes evidence of the commission of a criminal offense and contraband, the fruits of crime or things otherwise criminally possessed. This application also seeks authorization for executing officers or agents to be accompanied by an archeologist or cultural artifacts expert, for the sole purpose of assisting agents in identifying and authenticating items to be seized, as contemplated in Attachment B of the Application and Warrant, incorporated by reference herein. Continued on the attached sheet and made a part hereof. xx Yes in violation of Title(s) 18 United States Code, Section(s) 16 U.S.C. § 470 ee, 18 U.S.C. § 641, 1163. The facts to support the issuance of a Search Warrant are as follows: See attached Affidavit incorporated by reference berein Sworn to before me, and subscribed in my presence Special Agent, FBI SAMUEL ALBA, UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE Name and Title of Judicial Officer





Subpoena involves no prior judicial approval

United States District Court SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA SUBPOENA TO TESTIFY TO: Kristina Clair BEFORE GRAND JURY 4701 Pine St., Box 96 Philadelphia, PA 19143 DPERSON DOCUMENTS OR OBJECT(S) YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and testify before the Grand Jury of the United States District Court at the place, date, and time specified below. ROOM PLACE 464 U.S. Courthouse DATE AND TIME 46 East Ohio Street, 4th Floor February 24, 2009 Indianapolis, IN 46204 9:30 a.m. YOU ARE ALSO COMMANDED to bring with you the following document(s) or object(s): SEE SUBPOENA ATTACHMENT In lieu of actual appearance before the Grand Jury, you may voluntarily waive your right to personally present the records and request a Special Agent to take custody of the documents to present to the Grand Jury. If you elect to do so, please complete the enclosed Waiver and Certification and forward it and your response before the date of compliance to the attention of: Task Force Officer Joel A. Arthur Federal Bureau of Investigation 575 N. Pennsylvania Street, Room 679 Indiananolis, IN 46204 Telephone: 317-639-3301 You are not to disclose the existence of this request unless authorized by the Assistant U.S. Attorney. Any such disclosure would impede the investigation being conducted and thereby interfere with the enforcement of the This subpoons shall remain in offect until you are granted leave to depart by the court or by an officer acting on behalf of the court. DATE CLERK LAURA A. BRIGGS, CLERK January 23, 2009 Arthur/klb (BY) DEBUTY CLERK NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER OF This subpoens is issued upon application ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY of the United States of America TIMOTHY M. MORRISON Doris L. Prvor United States Attorney Assistant United States Attorney 10 West Market Street, Suite 2100 69-01-DLP-15-10 Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-3048 *If not applicable, enter "none,"



The parallel universe – foreign intelligence collection

Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act

- Warrants for surveillance inside the US, targeting persons inside the US
- National Security Letters for stored metadata
- Pen/trap provision for real-time collection of metadata
- Warrants for physical searches
- Section 215: Business records (sunsets June1, unless Congress acts)
- Section 702 (aka "PRISM"): Programmatic approval of surveillance targeting non-US persons reasonably believed to be outside the US



The courts begin to respond

- One federal appeals court requires warrant for all stored email (Warshak – 2010)
- Supreme Court requires warrant for prolonged GPS tracking does not rule on cell tower data (Jones – 2012)
- Supreme Court declines to rule on NSA surveillance (Clapper 2013, pre-Snowden)
- District courts rule on Section 215 program (2013, post-Snowden)
 two for and one against; 3 appeals pending



Time for Congress to respond again

Updating ECPA – a convergence of interests:

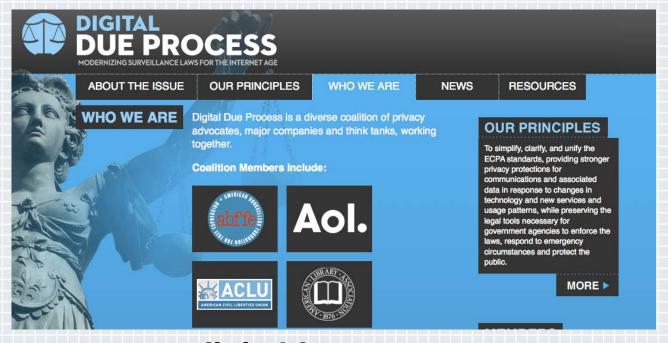
- Service providers
- Users

Government





Digital Due Process



www.digitaldueprocess.org



ECPA Reform

- Judge's warrant for all content
 - ◆ Leahy-Lee S. 356 16 cosponsors
 - Yoder-Polis H.R. 699 261 cosponsors
- Judge's warrant for location tracking
 - GPS Act H.R. 491, S. 237
- Reform bulk collection of metadata
 - USA FREEDOM Act











Global Government Surveillance Reform

The undersigned companies believe that it is time for the world's governments to address the practices and laws regulating government surveillance of individuals and access to their information.

While the undersigned companies understand that governments need to take action to protect their citizens' safety and security, we strongly believe that current laws and practices need to be reformed.

Consistent with established global norms of free expression and privacy and with the goals of ensuring that government law enforcement and intelligence efforts are rule-bound, narrowly tailored, transparent, and subject to oversight, we hereby call on governments to endorse the following principles and enact reforms that would put these principles into action.





















Apply

- Next week you should:
 - Join Digital Due Process
 - Coordinate with your legis affairs office or trade association to include ECPA reform on your legis policy agenda
- In the next three months, you should:
 - Talk with your general counsel about your internal policies for responding to government demands
- Within six months:
 - Work with your general counsel to survey data holdings and determine how they fit within ECPA