

Privacy and Technology Project

PROJECT OVERVIEW, UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS

INFORMATION SECURITY AND PRIVACY ADVISORY BOARD

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Privacy and Technology Project

Purpose:

To examine the extent to which changes in the nature and use of information technology by federal agencies have created the need for revision of the legal and policy framework of privacy in the 21st century.

Scope:

1. Examine privacy law and policy to identify gaps resulting from emerging technologies and practices.
2. Address what the impact of changes in technology and practices over the last thirty years means, and how the protections in current law and policy may or may not work in today's environment.

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Product – a paper that:

- analyzes contemporary information management mechanisms, practices and technologies against a synthesis of fair information principles (values, goals, requirements),
- explores whether these technologies and practices expose gaps in the federal privacy framework or introduce new vulnerabilities in the management of privacy,
- evaluates the efficacy of current information privacy practices and controls, and
- develops a set of recommended best practices to help reduce privacy risk.

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Why this project is different from other studies:

We are taking a holistic approach – reviewing the federal privacy policy framework from a policy/principle/values perspective rather than a statutory analysis standpoint. With this approach, we examine whether the underlying principles are served across an entire set of regulatory mechanisms, rather than deconstructing specific statutes.

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An organized, systematic, comprehensive review:

Much effort has gone into designing a research methodology and plan that will permit a number of researchers to approach this massive undertaking in an organized, standardized manner. This plan has a number of steps. Ultimately, our ultimate work product will focus on the intersection between current agency practices, specific information technologies and those policies, principles and values important to the protection of individuals/ privacy. We will identify gaps in the regulatory framework, and hopefully, offer concrete and realistic solutions.

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Development of a useful, realistic work product:

Our approach does not look at privacy values, principles and policies in a vacuum. Rather, we will integrate current agency information requirements and practices, the need for efficient use of information, and the impact of emerging technologies in our analysis. Thus, our ultimate work product will be geared toward mitigating risks to privacy and providing viable solutions given the needs of the agencies we serve.

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A workable timeline with manageable goals:

This long-term project is designed to produce several white papers/reports that will serve several audiences. The initial white paper will focus on identifying gaps in the privacy policy framework. Subsequent deliverables will build on the initial white paper and on one another to provide specific suggestions for enhancing privacy protections for the ISPAB's constituents.

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Your input is appreciated.

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