

IGF 2006

Privacy Workshops I and II

1. Title

Privacy Workshops I and II

- Workshop 1: Privacy and Identity Matters
- Workshop 2: Privacy, Development, and Globalisation

2. Organizers and Panelists

Organizers:

- Gus Hosein, Information Systems Group, The London School of Economics and Political Science
- Ralf Bendrath, University of Bremen and WSIS CS Privacy and Security Working Group

Panelists:

Workshop 1:

- Jerry Fishenden, Microsoft UK
- Christian Möller, Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
- Stephanie Perrin, Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada
- Jan Schallaböck, PRIME-Project and Independent Centre for Privacy Protection, Kiel
- Mary C. Rundle, Net Dialogue of Harvard's Berkman Center and Stanford's Center for Internet and Society

Workshop 2:

- Cristos Velasco, North American Consumer Project on Electronic Commerce
- Michael Silber, Internet Service Providers' Association of South Africa
- David W. Maher, Public Interest Registry
- Zoi Talidou, Hellenic Data Protection Authority
- Anriette Esterhuysen, The Association for Progressive Communication

3. Discussion

The privacy aspects of digital identity management infrastructures and the link between privacy and development were identified as important emerging issues. Identity management is currently being developed and introduced as another “layer” of the internet, but without much public participation. Issues to be cleared are the compliance with existing privacy regulation, ways to make data handling policies more understandable to the users, the handling of identifying data on the back-end (after it has been transmitted to an online service), and the need to ensure the possibility for anonymous internet use, which is a prerequisite for free speech. Technical standards are an important means of governance here, and have to include the perspectives of privacy protection in a more systematic way.

Developing countries and regions will be affected by privacy regulation, as more and more of them are currently introducing their own legislation. Here, external constraints such as the EU data protection regime or trade agreements, as well as the lack of capacity among developing countries' lawmakers may have an impact that should be addressed. Also, people in developing countries tend to use technology in a different way (e.g. connecting in cybercafés much more than through their own computers), therefore their needs for privacy protection are different. Global technical as well as legal standards have to better include the perspectives of developing countries.

4. Inventory of events and actors related to the issue under discussion

There is a wide range of actors and networks in the privacy field, ranging from relevant international organizations like the EU, the OECD and the Council of Europe to the international networks of privacy commissioners and NGOs. They meet regularly at big international events such as the Data Protection Commissioners' conferences, the "Computers, Freedom and Privacy" conferences, as well as at regional events such as the British Columbia "Security and Privacy" conferences, the IAPP conferences, or the Chaos Communication Congresses. There is less connection and interaction with the communities relevant for identity management or development policy. One aim of the workshops was to change this and kick off a dialogue.

5. Possible follow-up

Participants in the workshops as well as other stakeholders agreed to launch a "Dynamic Coalition on Privacy", which will address emerging issues of internet privacy protection such as digital identities, the link between privacy and development, and the importance of privacy and anonymity for freedom of expression. It will initiate an open process to further develop and clarify the public policy aspects of privacy in internet governance in the perspective of the next IGF meeting in Brazil in 2007. The group will use online collaboration tools as well as facilitate meetings at related events all over the world throughout the year. Participants in Athens in particular agreed that there is a need for greater public participation in technical and legal standardizations that have a global public policy impact on privacy. They also emphasized that it is important to better include perspectives from developing countries in these processes. The Dynamic Coalition on Privacy is a direct outcome of two privacy workshops. It also reflects discussions held during the IGF main session on cyber-security as well as the IGF workshops on "Human Rights and the Internet" organized by the Council of Europe and on an "Internet Bill of Rights" organized by the Government of Italy together with IP Justice and the Internet Society of Italy. It builds upon several months of multi-stakeholder collaboration in the run-up to the UN meeting in Athens.

6. Useful links

More information on the Dynamic Coalition on Privacy as well as link to relevant actors and events will be made available at <http://igf2006.intgovforum.org/wiki/Privacy>.

