

Australia

New External Accountability Task Force to Improve Privacy Management at the Department of Immigration and Border Control

The Department of Immigration and Border Control has announced the creation of an External Accountability Task Force, specifically focused on strengthening privacy and information management. The announcement follows the publication by the Australian Information Commissioner of documents outlining a number of privacy breaches by the Department. These breaches included the disclosure of personal details of world leaders at the last G20 summit. Among the leaders whose details were exposed were Barack Obama, Vladimir Putin and David Cameron.

[Department of Immigration and Border Control Press Release](#)

EU

Amazon's Cloud Services Declared Safe by the Article 29 Working Party

The Article 29 Working Party has approved Amazon Web Services' (AWS) Data Processing Agreement, saying its standard contractual clauses meet all the requirements of EU data protection laws. AWS hopes this will reassure customers of AWS who wish to transfer personal data to outside of Europe that their content will be afforded the same level of protection as it has in Europe.

[Article 29 Working Party's letter to Amazon](#)

UK

Serious Fraud Office Fined £180,000 for Data Breach

The UK regulator has fined the Serious Fraud Office £180,000 after thousands of confidential documents from a high-profile bribery investigation were mistakenly sent to the wrong person. The papers contained evidence relating to 64 people. The SFO has stated that it has "substantially overhauled its procedures" since the breach.

[ICO Press Release](#)

Regulator Launches Investigation Into Firms Sharing Sensitive Data

The ICO will launch an investigation into allegations from a national newspaper that firms have been sharing sensitive personal data, including pension details. The newspaper reported that pensioners' salaries, the value of their investments and the size of their pensions are being sold without their consent.

[ICO Press Release](#)

US

FCC Looks to Protect the Privacy of Broadband Internet Customers

The Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Net Neutrality Order has announced that the agency will apply customer information privacy requirements to broadband internet access providers. Recognizing that its current privacy rules focus on voice services, the FCC will conduct a rulemaking to develop new rules and will start the process by holding an April 28, 2015 workshop for stakeholders interested in exploring the likely issues in such a rulemaking.

[FCC Press Release](#)

New Executive Order on Cybersecurity

President Obama has announced a new sanctions program that authorizes sanctions to be imposed on malicious cyber actors whose actions threaten the national security, foreign policy, or economic health or financial stability of the United States. The announcement stated that by freezing assets of those subject to sanctions and making it more difficult for them to do business with US entities, economic motivation for committing these acts in the first place will be removed. The aim of the Executive Order is to ensure that malicious cyber actors who target critical infrastructure or seek to take down Internet services are subject to increased costs when designated for sanctions.

[White House Press Release](#)

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