

Daily Privacy & Consumer Regulatory Alert

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FEDERAL DEVELOPMENTS

International Telemarketing Scam

On May 28th, the Department of Justice (DOJ) [announced](#) that an Ohio man pled guilty to facilitating an international telemarketing scam that defrauded elderly Americans out of \$7 million. The DOJ reported that the defendant worked in a call center in Costa Rica with co-conspirators who impersonated representatives of the Federal Trade Commission, D.C. Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, and federal judges to convince elderly victims that they won a sweepstakes prize and needed to send a series of cash payments to the defendant before collecting the prize money. The defendant provided Voice over Internet Protocol technology to make the phone calls appear to be from Washington, D.C. and other U.S. cities.

STATE DEVELOPMENTS

Minnesota Background Screening Act

On May 22nd, Minnesota enacted [H.F. 637](#), which amends the professional license requirements for certain healthcare professions. The Act requires certain individuals to submit to a criminal history records check by the state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, including licensees applying for eligibility to participate in an interstate licensure compact and applicants for initial licensure. The Act limits the validity of background checks to one year.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

EU-U.S. Privacy Shield Challenge

On May 28th, *Tech Crunch* [reported](#) that the General Court of the European Union agreed to hear a complaint brought by the French digital rights group La Quadrature du Net against the European Commission challenging the EU-U.S. Privacy Shield. La Quadrature du Net argued in the complaint that U.S. privacy laws and government surveillance practices fail to meet the data protection standards necessary by EU law and does not provide adequate protection for EU citizens' data.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

885 Million Mortgage Records Exposed Online

On May 24th, *KrebsOnSecurity* [reported](#) that real estate title insurance company First American Financial Corporation leaked approximately 885 million documents relating to mortgage deals since 2003. According to the article, the records were available unencrypted online. Individuals who received a document link from First American could change any of the numbers in the URL and gain unauthorized access to other individuals' mortgage documents. *KrebsOnSecurity* reports that there is no indication that the personally identifiable information (PII) in the documents have been used maliciously but warns that the information exposed in the records makes affected individuals vulnerable to Business Email Compromise scams, in which scammers

may impersonate real estate agents, closing agencies, or financial institutions. The PII contained in the documents included:

- Bank account numbers and statements;
 - Mortgage and tax records;
 - Social Security numbers;
 - Wire transaction receipts; and
 - Driver's license images.
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