Privacy Bulletin | MAY 2017
Updates on Privacy by the Centre for Internet and Society

PRIVACY IN NEWS

- Twitter recently updated its privacy policy and ended its “Do Not Track” browser preference which now gives users more access to the way their data is being used.
- Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurated a Data Analytics round table and stated that the huge amount of analytical data available with the Indian Railways would have to be monetised for pricing, planning and disaster abatement, however privacy would not be compromised.
- In an interesting online-offline venture, Google Inc. revealed that it had begun to track and analyse credit card transactions, even in offline brick-and-mortar stores as part of a measure to check the efficiency of its ad campaigns.
- Zomato India faced a security breach with the private data of almost 17 million users being stolen by hackers. The corporation attributed it to human error and said it was working towards plugging all gaps.

BLOGS & SUBMISSIONS

Aadhaar Case: Beyond Privacy, An Issue of Bodily Integrity
By AMBER SINHA and ARADHYA SETHIA
The insertion of Section 139AA in the Income Tax Act has been challenged and is being heard by a two-judge bench of the Supreme Court. Amber and Aradhya analyse the constitutional angle, with specific reference to the Right to Privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution.

EVENTS ATTENDED

Stockholm Internet Forum 2017
CIS Participated in the Stockholm Internet Forum 2017 at Münchenbryggeriet in Stockholm on May 17-18 2017. Elonnai Hickok was a speaker at a panel on “Private sector and civil society collaboration to advance freedom online” and Japreet Grewal was a speaker at a panel on “Internet Shutdowns”.

EVENTS CONDUCTED

#FirstFriday at CIS
A talk by Amutha Arunachalam, Principal Technical Officer, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research on Stand Shielded of Digital Rights was held at CIS, Delhi on May 05, 2017. The talk was on digital signatures, traceability of time-stamps, and setting up an Indian Standard (Digital) Time.

CIS IN NEWS

Aadhaar’s the largest biometric database globally but it is leaky by design
MAY 5, 2017
The Business Standard covered the instances of breach of privacy through the various leaks from the Aadhaar database. Amber Sinha was quoted.

Why Aadhaar leaks should worry you, and is biometrics really safe?
MAY 4, 2017
Amber Sinha was quoted in an article detailing the principled issues with the Aadhaar and the UIDAI database.
The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) is working on a new data protection law aimed at protecting personal information. A draft, creating an enabling framework to allow public data to be effectively mined, has been sent to PMO for approval.

The Supreme Court of India is set to hear final arguments on July 17 in a matter pertaining to WhatsApp-Facebook data sharing, a case brought by two Indian students contending violation of Indian users’ privacy by WhatsApp by sharing data with its parent company, Facebook Inc.

This article highlights the need for the Supreme Court to set up a Constitutional Bench to decide the impending matter pertaining to Right to Privacy in light of Aadhaar.

DSCI Best Practices Meet 2017
Udbhav Tiwari attended the DSCI Best Practices Meet 2017 in Bangalore on 22nd-23rd June 2017

Explore money apps but watch your data
JUNE 8, 2017
The article highlights how financial apps may appear to be free but before you install them, reading their privacy policies to know what you may be signing away is essential. Pranesh Prakash was quoted.

As recently as May 27, 2016, the General Data Protection Regulation (REGULATION (EU) 2016/679) was adopted, replacing the Data Protection Directive (1995/46/EC). It will come into force on 25th May 2018 and it is expected that under this Regulation data privacy will be strengthened. Substantive and procedural changes have been introduced and for compliance, industries and law enforcement agencies will have to adjust the ways in which they have operated thus far. This blog aims to highlight some of the key changes that have been introduced by way of the GDPR.