



Homeland Security

The Privacy Office
Department of Homeland Security
Privacy and Technology Workshop:
Exploring Government Use of Commercial Data for Homeland Security
September 8-9, 2005

OFFICIAL WORKSHOP TRANSCRIPT

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Auditorium

GSA Regional Headquarters Building

7th and D Streets, SW,

Washington, D.C., 20024

OPENING REMARKS

Chief Privacy Officer

Nuala O'Connor Kelly

Privacy Office Senior Advisor

Toby Milgrom Levin

MS.LEVIN: I'd like to welcome you to the Department of Homeland Security Privacy Office's first public workshop, Privacy and Technology: Government Use of Commercial Data.

My name is Toby Levin, and I have the good fortune of being Senior Advisor to the Privacy Office, and also served as the coordinator for this workshop. I want to give special greetings to DHS personnel who are here with us today, their presence further evidences the importance of privacy and protecting individual privacy, while achieving the mission of this important department, and we thank you for being here.

Before introducing our chief privacy officer, I want to run through some of the logistics to help make your day with us more enjoyable. You should each have a folder which has our agenda and the bios of the panelists and some panel materials. There's also materials about the office on the information table to my left, and I imagine during the course of the workshop some groups may put some information materials on there as well. We will have a break at 10:45, and resume at 11:00, and then break for lunch at 1:00. Coffee and tea and water is available for you in the conference room directly behind the front entrance of the auditorium in a conference room, so we ask you to get your refreshments and, if you would, you can gather in the hallway to my left, and enjoy the

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coffee or tea, water, and then leave the cups in the trash cans in the conference room when you re-enter.

We will also break for lunch at 1:00, and for your convenience, you may find it easier to use the cafeteria, which is located on the fifth floor, what you'll do is, if you take the elevators to my left, go up to the fifth floor, take another left down that corridor, or ask any employee in the building where the cafeteria is, they'll direct you. And then we will resume promptly at 2:00. There's also fast-food available across the way in the L'Enfant Plaza, lower level, there are a couple of hotels in the area, if you're interested, you can ask for directions at one of the desks.

Restrooms are located to my left on this corridor, and also along the hall to my right, past the elevators on the right side of the auditorium, please note the emergency exits -- two in the back, and there's one here to my left.

At the end of each panel, we have allotted significant time for questions from the audience, because we very much want to hear from you your concerns and questions, and to respond to them. We have a standing mike place right here to my left, when the moderator gives you the directions to line up, you can line up behind the mike and you'll be recognized in turn. Please be sure to speak into the mike so that our transcriber can record your question, and also identify yourself as well for the transcript.

Speaking into the mike also applies to all of our panelists. As you share the microphones, or use them, make sure you're speaking into the mike.

A transcript of the workshop should be available within two weeks of the event, and if you'd like to file any written comments with regards to any of the topics discussed, we'd be very interested in hearing from you. You can email your comments to our workshop mailbox, which is privacyworkshop@dhs.gov. We are expecting a full attendance over the course of the events, so I hope you will accommodate late-comers, either if you want to move more towards the middle, or as people excuse themselves, please be understanding.

It's my pleasure now to introduce Nuala O'Conner Kelly, Chief Privacy Officer of the Department of Homeland Security. [Applause.]

MS.O'CONNOR-KELLY: Good morning, everyone. I'm delighted to see so many familiar faces, and so many new faces to the conversation about the use of personal data and, in particular, commercial data in the Department of Homeland Security, and I think it's incredibly appropriate to what I'm about to say to hear a crying baby in the background -- I have been saying now, since I started in this job two and a half years ago -- that there is no more compelling public policy issue than the use of personal data for homeland, and national security. And with all due respect to all of us here in the room today, I was wrong.

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The most compelling public policy issue facing the United States today is the disaster that has occurred in the Gulf Coast of this country. Every single one of us -- no matter what our politics or what our feelings are about that disaster -- can play a role in helping the people affected. So, I'm going to take my five minutes, not to tell you about this great program we have, because it's self-evident -- we've got amazing speakers, amazing topics, and I give my team, in particular, Toby Levin and Kathleen Kavanaugh all the credit.

But, what I want to tell you about are a few ideas of ways you might help that you, perhaps, haven't considered before. You're all familiar, of course, with the American Red Cross, and the Salvation Army, and the great work those organizations do, and the very compelling need for money. Obviously, money is a fast and easy way, and the best way probably, to help folks in need today. But there are a number of other organizations that have come across my desk, both as a member of the Department of Homeland Security, but also as a working mom, and some of the listserves that I serve on, so I want to tell you about one project, in particular, to help these children, and that's called "The Largest Sleepover In Texas." As you all know, Houston -- in particular -- has borne the brunt of helping the evacuees from New Orleans, in particular, and the organization St. Vincent De Paul of Houston, which can be found at www.svdphouston.org, is organizing and soliciting for things for children.

And again, as a new mom, this came personally very close to my heart -- they need everything from diapers and baby wipes to teething gels, baby toiletries, baby clothes, and sleeping bags for all of the kids in the Houston Astrodome. There are a number of local organization that, if you feel that money is not the way you want to contribute, but you want to give some things, Manna is a local food organization, located in Rockville, Maryland, and they can be found at www.mannafood.org, and they are looking for food donations through the end of this week to go directly to disaster victims in all of the affected states.

And of course, lastly, Neighbors McLean is another organization that is organizing trucks of supplies, clothing, food, toiletries, to go down every day this week, and I recommend their website to you, as well, Neighbors McLean.

And, with that, I'm going to turn it over to our work today, which again, is not to underestimate the importance of this policy issue, but just to put it in context, there are people in need who need our help. And this work that we're doing in this department, and our Privacy Office is also helping this country, it's helping our country get these issues right, and making a more successful Department of Homeland Security.

Again, I congratulate Toby and Kathleen, and our whole team in the Privacy Office which have done an incredible job organizing this, and so many of our other events this year, and I want to turn it over to the first panel, I think it's going to be an enlightening

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and enriching day, and I want all of you to ask questions and participate, because that's what we're about, is a conversation with America.

Thank you very much.