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FOIA: Social Networking Monitoring

EFF, working with the Samuelson Law, Technology, and Public Policy Clinic at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law (Samuelson Clinic), filed suit on December 1, 2009 against a half-dozen government agencies for refusing to disclose their policies for using social networking sites for investigations, data-collection, and surveillance.

Related Issues: [FOIA Litigation for Accountable Government, Privacy](#)

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Deeplinks Posts

March 16, 2010

[EFF Posts Documents Detailing Law Enforcement Collection of Data From Social Media Sites](#)

Press Releases

December 01, 2009

[Lawsuit Demands Answers About Social-Networking Surveillance](#)

In The News

NPR - MARKETPLACE | February 04, 2010

[A friend request from the U.S. gov't](#)

NEW YORK TIMES | December 12, 2009

[Editorial: Twitter Tapping](#)

BLOOMBERG | December 02, 2009

[U.S. Sued by Privacy Group Over Use of Facebook, Twitter Data](#)

COMPUTERWORLD | December 02, 2009

[Lawsuit seeks information on federal surveillance of social networking sites](#)

EWEEK | December 03, 2009

[EFF Sues DOJ For Sleuthing Practices on Facebook, Twitter](#)

ARS TECHNICA | December 02, 2009

[EFF sues feds: tell us how you use Facebook for cyberstalking](#)

CNET NEWS | December 01, 2009

[EFF sues feds for info on social-network surveillance](#)

Documents

Legal documents

March 5, 2010

[Joint Case Management Statement](#) [PDF, 129.91 KB]

February 8, 2010

[Answer](#) [PDF, 85.89 KB]

December 1, 2009

[Complaint](#) [PDF, 133.29 KB]

FOIA releases

March 3, 2010

["Obtaining and Using Evidence from Social Networking Sites"](#) [PDF, 853.94 KB]

August 2009 presentation from the Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section

January 11, 2010

["Internet Research Tools"](#) [PDF, 1.88

MB]

A 2009 training course on internet tools and techniques to teach IRS employees how to gather information about taxpayers and research their online activity

Internal Revenue Manual excerpt:
"Prohibited Uses of Government IT Resources" [PDF, 176.52 KB]

Examples of prohibited uses of government IT resources dated March 31, 2008

Internal Revenue Manual excerpt:
"Specific Requirements" [PDF, 21.86 KB]

IRS policy on inappropriate internet use dated November 30, 2007

Internal Revenue Manual excerpts:
"Definition of Media," "Media Responsibilities" [PDF, 59.21 KB]

IRS policy on employee use of media dated November 24, 2009

Internet Content Filtering Change Request Form [PDF, 169.84 KB]

Undated form for IRS employees to request permission to access internet sites that they are otherwise not allowed to visit using government IT resources