

Latest laws in the US

In October 2013 there is an electronic communications privacy bill known as SB 467 which compels law enforcement to seek search warrant prior to accessing any electronic communication maintained by service providers. This one is similar to a bill in Texas which also requires law enforcement to seek warrants first. Also in October 2013 the Federal Communications Commission has made revisions to the Telephone Consumer Protection Act rules to require that businesses first obtain express written consent before telemarketing through autodialed/prerecorded calls or text messages to mobile phones or home lines.

Summary

Using simple language, under the consideration of privacy one should:

- let people know the privacy policy in place
- let people know how the submitted information will be handled
- let people decide whether or not to provide private information
- let people change or remove the submitted information
- make sure the submitted information is not used for purposes other than those stated in the policy
- make sure the submitted information is kept safe (this is definitely a TECHNICAL topic)
- do note that for these to be achieved, there must be strong policies on privacy and data protection backed by adequate training and clear accountability.

Review Questions:

1. Explain the term “Privacy”.