

DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY'S
2011 INTERNET DATA PRIVACY COLLOQUIUM
JAN. 26, 2011, 12:00 NOON – 4:30 P.M.
THE WASHINGTON HOME OF STEWART R. MOTT
AGENDA AND DESCRIPTION

12:00 NOON — LUNCH, GREETING AND WELCOME

OVERVIEW

The colloquium program is designed to range over a cluster of internet and IT policy issues, but to focus primarily on the privacy aspects of both internet use and the collection of data by commercial companies, governmental units, and – a new species on the scene – the social networking systems.

NOTHING TO HIDE: HEAVY WEATHER ON THE SOCIAL NETWORKS

Panelists home in on the potential perils of the internet and of information technology generally in the lives of young persons, discussing the state of protections available, through legal regulation or otherwise, for children, young persons, and families in the face of the perils that may be brought in train along with the more benign effects of the internet. Specifically, this problem appears with a newly perceived focus on the hardware side: the ease of employing hand-held devices for transmittal of messages and photos, and the difficulty of maintaining any control over the dissemination of these materials.

COMMERCIAL DATA BASES AND CONSUMER EXPECTATIONS

The practices of companies in accumulating data of all kinds on their customers and on others involved in commercial transactions, and especially as facilitated by the most advanced information technology instrumentalities, raise troubling questions for consumer privacy. What methods are being introduced by the commercial entities for protection of customers and others? What modes of protection can be put in place by the consumers themselves? Tracking practices, identity theft regulations affecting all businesses, and much more are brought under review.

THE SECURITY ENGINEERS: THE PENETRATING EYES OF GOVERNMENT

This segment focuses on the endangered cause of privacy in the face of contemporary information technology and of the not always benign use of its tools in the various facets of the vast government data collection enterprise. The REAL ID project or other forms of a national identity schema, the recurrent prospect of data mining and other governmental actions conducted under a national security rationale, are widely suspected of unduly impinging on essential privacy interests. Panelists explore the magnitude and reality of these concerns.

HEALTH CARE IT: THE DUELING IMPERATIVES – REAL TIME INFORMATION AND PATIENT PRIVACY

The broader adoption of information technology capabilities in health care/medical practice, a project now gathering speed, reinforced by the recent Affordable Care Act, poses the problem of rival imperatives: on the one hand, arguably, IT is the route to greatly enhanced efficiency in diagnosis and treatment decisions; and, on the other hand, immediate access by medical professionals to the great quantities of information created and maintained touching the intimate health history of all the individuals in the population, poses the danger of leakage of information that may be embarrassing or otherwise productive of losses, economic disadvantages, and the like. A strong privacy interest thus argues for careful restriction of the maintenance and use of these sensitive data.

AFTERWORD AND A LOOK AHEAD
