



Managing Privacy in Network Operations: Learning from the Law

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Operators/CSIRTs

- Can be a serious risk to user privacy
 - Easy to get carried away and go too far
 - Or follow personal motivation
 - Or be told to do something inappropriate



How to do it right?

- Leave it to individual conscience?
 - Unlikely to be comfortable, or consistent
- Mistakes may have legal consequences
 - For you, your organisation, and the bad guys
- Better to have a document to follow



Searching for Guidance

- Laws on privacy exist
 - Often expressing clear principles
- Content:
 - European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)
- Envelopes/Traffic:
 - European Data Protection Directives
- Content more 'private' than envelopes
 - So expect stricter laws/rules
 - But following the same pattern



ECHR Article 8

Right to respect for private and family life

Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence.



Breaching the Privacy Right

- **ONLY** if necessary and proportionate
 - In the interests of national security
 - To protect public safety or the economic well-being of the country
 - To prevent disorder or crime
 - To protect health or morals
 - To protect the rights and freedoms of others
- **Breach must be covered by law/rules**



Data Protection (95/46/EC)

- Processing of personal data must be lawful and fair to the individuals concerned;
- In particular, the data must be adequate, relevant and not excessive in relation to the purposes for which they are processed;
- Such purposes must be explicit and legitimate and must be determined at the time of collection of the data;
- The purposes of processing further to collection shall not be incompatible with the purposes as they were originally specified



Guidelines and Laws

- Guidelines say what you should do
- Laws say what you must do
 - Laws of your own country,
 - + of the country where you are,
 - + of the country where your company is,
 - + maybe, of the country where your users are,
 - + perhaps others too
- Guidelines can provide more detail or a higher standard, if you choose to adopt them
- You can't opt out of the laws



Guidelines for CSIRTs

Whether to act (HR)

- Know what objective is
- Do no more than is necessary
- Find a reasoned, reasonable balance

Harm if we do v.
harm if we don't

How to act (DP)

- Act (if at all) in least intrusive way
- Follow documented procedures
- Ensure powers aren't abused
 - Serious breach of trust if so
- Tell users what we will do
 - And what the rules are

Your laws may demand more, or less
Ask a lawyer in your own country, not me!