



Department of Information Systems

Coles College of Business

Georgia Senate Bill 315

Or, why doing “good” may now bad

KSU SysAdmin meeting
March 2018

Overview

- History
- SB 315 overview
- Analysis
- Outcome
- What next?

Disclaimer

- Everything in this talk is mine
 - Unless it's not...
- Not speaking for the university in any official capacity
- If you worked at the Elections Center...

History

- In March 2017, voter registration data of ~6.7 million Georgia residents exposed via Drupal vulnerability on KSU Elections Center Website
- Data found by local security researchers, reported to KSU faculty member
- KSU faculty member verified the exposure, reported to KSU CISO

History

- Elections Center website taken offline
- Ga. Secretary of State office notified
- Ga. Governor's office notified
- Governor requests FBI investigation for possible criminal activity

History



History

- KSU faculty member notifies his Dean and department chair when local TV breaks the news
- KSU faculty member retains criminal defense attorney and waits for FBI contact

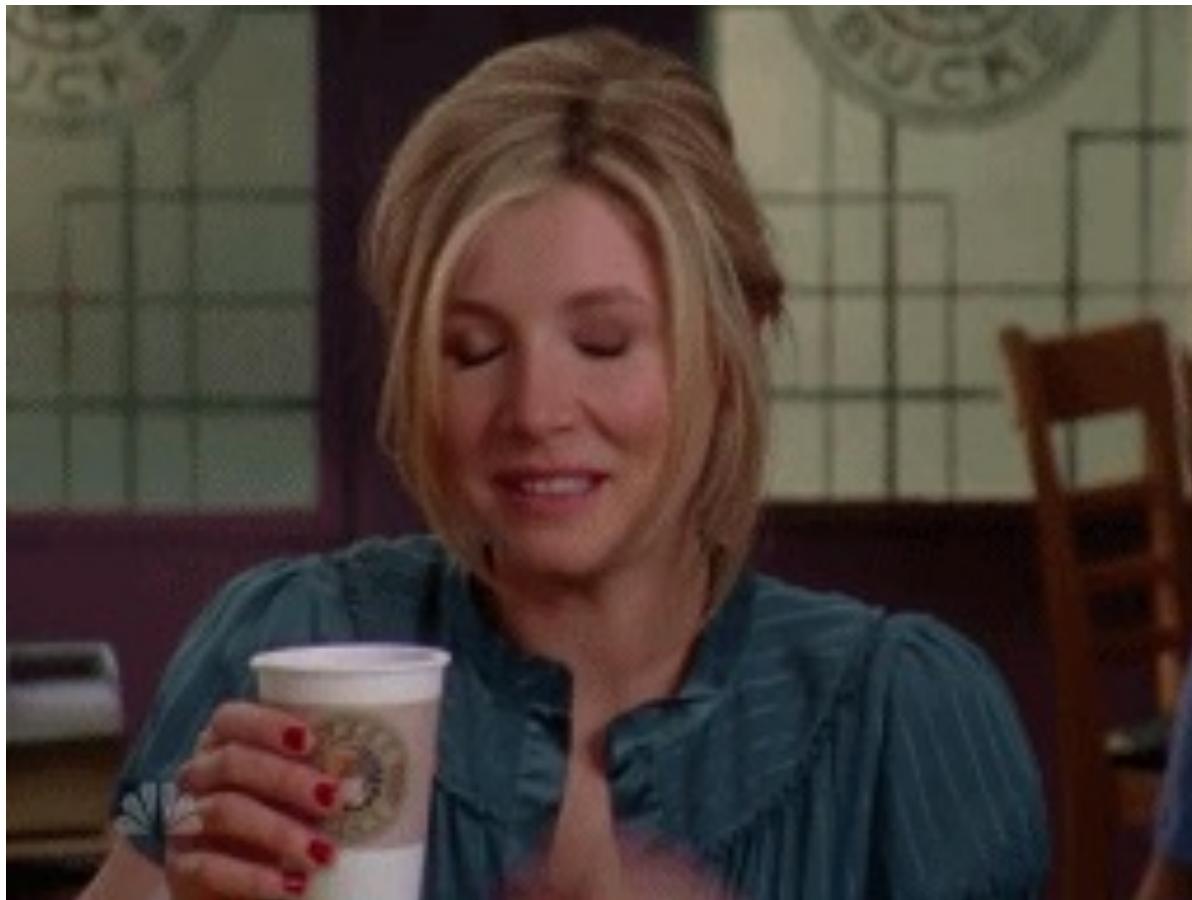
History



History

- KSU faculty member is interviewed by FBI agents
- FBI closes investigation, no federal charges filed

History



SB 315 overview

- Bill initiated in the Senate, sponsored by Sen. Bruce Thompson and others
- Bill seeks to amend Title 16, Chapter 9, Article 6, Part 1 of Georgia Code, which relates to computer crimes
- Creates a new aggravated misdemeanor crime of “unauthorized access”

SB 315 overview

- Bill written in direct response to Elections Center incident, per Senate committee testimony
- Sen. Thompson says bill makes Georgia “pro business” and “anti hacker”

SB 315 overview



SB 315 overview

- Bill has gone through multiple changes, and is different from how it began
- “Any person who intentionally accesses a computer or computer network with knowledge that such access is without authority shall be guilty of the crime of unauthorized computer access”

SB 315 overview

- Previous language does not apply to:
 - “Persons who are members of the same household”
 - “Access to a computer or computer network for a legitimate business activity”
 - “Cybersecurity active defense measures that are designed to prevent or detect unauthorized computer access”
 - “Persons based upon violations of terms of service or user agreements”

Analysis

- Terms of service violations
 - Addressed during consideration, language added
- Malicious or criminal intent
 - Not a factor. If you “do” it, you are guilty
- Academic or industry research exemption
 - Not addressed, no exemptions granted

Analysis

- Household monitoring
 - Original language was present to restrict monitoring to parents of minor children
 - Language amended to widen the exemption
 - Concerns about monitoring in abusive households

Analysis

- Several security and tech professionals have spoken out against the bill
- USG has not taken a public stance on the bill
- Will impact industry and academic research
- Will impact growing security sector in Ga.

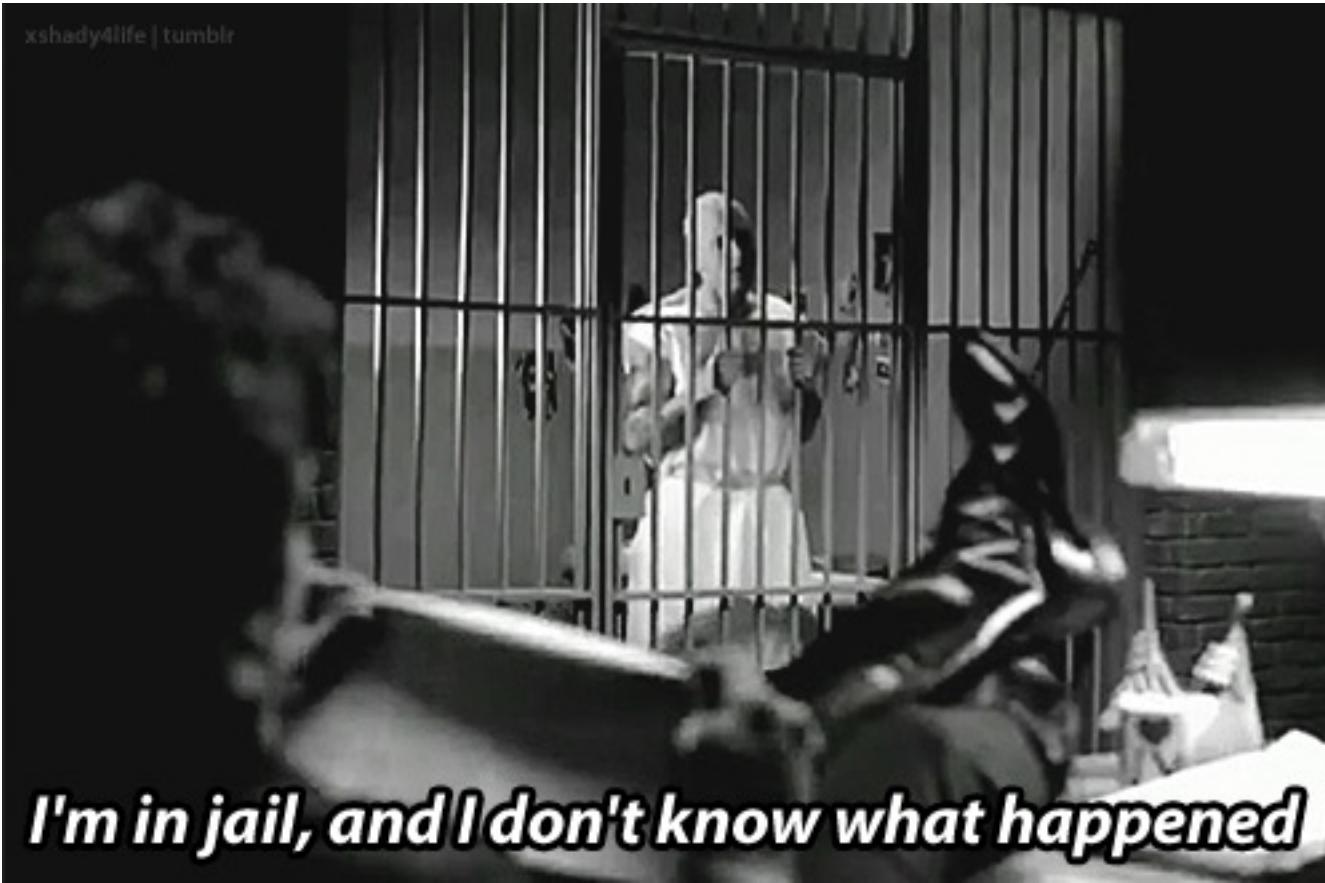
Outcome

- Slide deck constructed at 6:30pm on Thursday, 3/29/2018
 - Bill still in process
- UPDATE
 - House substitute bill approved by senate at ~11:30pm
 - <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/20172018/177608.pdf>

Next steps

- If fail
 - Reach out to bill sponsors to educate
 - Attempt to influence language in future legislation
- If pass
 - Shamelessly lobby for veto via Twitter
 - Change my research stream
 - Start Go Fund Me account for attorney fees
 - And...

xshady4life | tumblr



I'm in jail, and I don't know what happened



How to find me

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Have a KSU day!

#hootyhoo