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For Immediate Release

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Spy Lockout Shareholder Proposal To Be Voted On At Apple Annual Meeting

Apple Challenged To Remove Third Party Data Interception Equipment

Cupertino-At the upcoming annual Apple shareholder meeting, shareholders will ask the Bay Area computer maker to take several policy and technical actions immediately, to protect the company against negative business impact from the NSA bulk surveillance scandal.

The shareholder proposal, which Apple's board has approved for discussion on February 28th, asks Apple to:

- Revoke and update encryption keys that may have been compromised, to protect the security of user data
- Remove interception devices used for mass surveillance to the greatest possible legal extent, and to pursue legal assistance towards this effort
- Expand the deployment of transparency measures such as the "dead man switch" and "warrant canary" to alert users to system compromises
- Make it official policy that Apple should not, actively or passively, agree to do or allow covert mass surveillance against its customers, nor remain silent about what Apple and the government have done or are doing.

The Spy Lockout shareholder proposal was developed by Apple shareholders, developers, users, employees, and Restore the Fourth Bay Area, with advice from Electronic Frontier Foundation attorney Kurt Opsahl, encryption expert Bruce Schneier, Lavabit attorney Ian Samuels, and EFF founder John Gilmore.

The proposal states that user trust and ethical standards are essential to maintaining Apple's share value.

"Apple users and shareholders must understand whether Apple is a paid participant in unconstitutional bulk surveillance, a hapless victim of it, a gagged hostage of government spies, badly in need of help – or, whether Apple is truly an effective foe of such surveillance."

The shareholder raising it, computer scientist, entrepreneur and activist Dr. David Levitt, will present Apple directors with the Spy Lockout proposal at the meeting. The shareholders present in Cupertino will vote on it. In the event of lack of action by Apple, Levitt can introduce a binding proxy action for a vote by all shareholders for the 2015 annual meeting.

"Apple has a duty and an ability to be more transparent," says Dr. Levitt. "No one believes the FBI will shut down Apple, or lock up Apple executives like Tim Cook or Al Gore, if they reveal more about government attempts to violate users' constitutional rights and invade their privacy. It's time for Apple to say whether it's siding with its customers or with criminals – government spies who, even their own friendly secret courts have ruled, lie to judges and violate the constitution."

"The NSA's reckless attacks on privacy and encryption are threatening Silicon Valley's entire international cloud service sector, as security professionals worldwide rethink working with US firms that have been compromised," says Levitt.

"For Apple's sake we're expecting to see more transparency at this meeting."

For more information and the complete text of the Spy Lockout shareholders proposal, see the [Spy Lockout website](#).