“I would like to see the organisations you mentioned above such as microsoft and cisco get involved in security and freedom issues”

Hi Zubair,

Actually, Microsoft just made recent news regarding this topic. A few days ago, Microsoft revealed that the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) requested “account information about one of its enterprise customers.” (Mackie, 2014). Microsoft has fought the request citing that their privacy policy that requires they obtain customer permission first. They also said that in such matters, they “try to direct the government to get the information itself from the customer” (Mackie, 2014). In my opinion, this is a win for those that value privacy and freedom in general from an ever-intrusive government.

Regards,

Emanuel

References:

Mackie, K. (2014) ‘Microsoft Touts Resistance to an FBI Snooping Request’, *Redmond Magazine* [Online]. Available from: <http://redmondmag.com/articles/2014/05/22/microsoft-spy-request.aspx> (Accessed: 26 May 2014)

“According to Kyrnin (n.d.b), frames are not search engine friendly and do not allow pages to be indexed. This is mainly because when frames are used, index.html or whatever default page is merely the main frame the loads the content from different default content page. Unless this content page is loaded there will be no data to look at. This is not an issue for normal users loading the page through web browsers but it is an issue to search robots (Seologic, n.d.).”

Hi Ala,

Thank you for that explanation. I have no experience in web programming, so I did struggle a bit with this topic and your post has helped tremendously. Regarding robots, or “bots”, it looks like this is the way in which search engines (e.g., Bing, Google, Yahoo) actually create their databases that we all use (Indiana University, 2014). Do you know if websites can restrict robot access if they did not want to be indexed?

Reference:

Indiana University (2014) ‘What Are Web Search Robots, And How Do They Affect Me?’ *Knowledge Base* [Online]. Available from: <http://kb.iu.edu/data/aeub.html> (Accessed: 26 May 2014)

Hi everyone,

The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), which is a “nonprofit organization defending civil liberties in the digital world” puts out reports every year on the companies that actually will fight to protect the data of its users. It looks like Apple, Microsoft, Facebook, and Google score their highest marks (Electronic Frontier Foundation, 2014). AT&T (whom I have a contract with), Amazon, and Snapchat rank pretty low. Comcast, whom I use for high-speed internet access at home, did not rank so high either. I may have to rethink about renewing my contract with AT&T when it ends later this year. But then again, it would be a hassle, which brings us back to which was partially covered last week, which about convenience vs. privacy.

Regards,

Emanuel

Reference:

Electronic Frontier Foundation (2014) *Who Has Your Back? Protecting Your Data from Government Requests* [Online]. Available from: <https://www.eff.org/who-has-your-back-government-data-requests-2014> (Accessed: 27 May 2014)