

Facebook Faces a Lawsuit for Scanning Users Private Messages.

Ninja Bits: Facebook is in trouble yet once again. This time with acquisitions of invading the privacy of its several million users.

In Northern California, Facebook is suffering from a class-action lawsuit over allegations in which states the company is systematically scanning Facebook user's private messages over the social network, even without the user's consent. Even more outstanding, Facebook is also profiting off of your messages by sharing the valuable information with advertisers as well as marketers.



Looking into the lawsuit that has been filed against Facebook, the social media giant is in clear violations of the Federal Privacy Laws by scanning its user's private messages.

Facebook scans the URL's inside of the private messages for several reasons. Such reasons are for anti-malware protection as well as industry standard searches for child pornography. However, it has also been claimed that the social media giant is also using the data from active users for means of advertisement as well as "User-Target" services.

Matthew Campeeland Michael Hurley, who are the plaintiffs against the large social media giant, has argued that Facebook is indeed scanning and collecting the URL's from inside of private messages in a non-related data searchable form.

Which does impose as violating both of the Electronic Communications Privacy Act as well as the California Invasion of Privacy Act. This has been reported in The Verge as they covered this story.

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1	
2	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
3	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
4	
5	MATTHEW CAMPBELL, et al.,
6	Plaintiffs,
7	v.
8	FACEBOOK INC.,
9	Defendant.
10	
11	
12	On March 16, 2016, plaintiffs' motion for class certification came on for hearing
13	before this court. Plaintiffs Matthew Campbell and Michael Hurley ("plaintiffs") appeared
14	through their counsel, Michael Sobol, Hank Bates, David Rudolph, and Melissa Gardner.
15	Defendant Facebook, Inc. ("defendant" or "Facebook") appeared through its counsel,
16	Christopher Chorba, Joshua Jessen, Jeana Maute, and Priyanka Rajagopalan. Having
17	read the papers filed in conjunction with the motion and carefully considered the

Naturally Facebook argues back stating the company is only scanning their users privatized messages in bulk. In which they aim to maintain the URL records in a central anonymized way. Which also happens to be utilized in an aggregated form.

More over on the story, according to the technical analysis that had been performed on the social giant on behalf of the plaintiffs, each of the URL-related messages was in fact stored inside of "Titan". This possess a private message database in which displays every one of the messages alongside with a date and time stamp of when the message was sent. This also includes the user ID's of both ends (receiving and sending).

Not shockingly enough, that Facebook has also utilized this same practice previously, however, then the company had claimed that they have stopped performing such privacy invasion acts a long time ago.

A Facebook's spokesperson has informed CNET "We agree with the court's findings that the alleged conduct did not result in any actual harm and that it would be inappropriate to allow plaintiffs to seek damages on a class-wide basis".

"The remaining claims relate to historical practices that are entirely lawful, and we look forward to resolving those claims on the merits" The representative continues to add.



However, the story persists that the plaintiffs are arguing the fact that Facebook is still in full force and actively pursuing the collection of links from private messages of Facebook users.

In return, Facebook's source code not only provides the information that Facebook continues to acquire URL content from the private messages, the company also continues to profit from the content that the scanning software acquires.

You can continue to follow this lawsuit from here. This lawsuit had originally been filed back in 2012 and for now, the case is indeed expecting to proceed.

The plaintiffs of the lawsuit have only until June 8th in order to file for the amended complaint, in which is then followed by a scheduled conference near the end of the month.

SOURCES: [TheHackerNews](#) { } [The Verge](#) { } [TITAN](#) { } [CNET](#) { }

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