What does transparency conceal?

December 4, 2013
Elvis Costello & The Roots – Wise Up Ghost And Other Songs (2013) [review]
newalbumreleases.net/elvis-costello-the-roots-wise-up-ghost-and-other-
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Sep 17, 2013 - Preview songs from Wise Up Ghost (Deluxe) by Elvis Costello & The Roots on the iTunes Store. Preview, buy, and download Wise Up Ghost ...

www.hiphopdons.net/album-leak-elvis-costello-and-the-roots-wise-up-

Amazon.com: Wise Up Ghost: Elvis Costello And The Roots: MP3 ...
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Chilling Effects

WordPress Stands Up For Users - Files 512(f) Lawsuits

November 22, 2013 by Chilling Effects Team

WordPress, the blogging platform, joins two of its users in filing lawsuits under Section 512(f) of the DMCA, the section addressing those who âknowingly materially misrepresentâ a case of copyright infringement.

read more

Crypto Company Issues DMCA Takedown Against Critics of Its Products

November 21, 2013 by Chilling Effects Team

As regular visitors may recall, we spent some time this summer investigating notices in our database that referenced trademark claims, but also defamation, or that seemed to be defamation claims cloaked as trademark claims.

Ongoing research in that vein turned up this notice that we have in our database courtesy of the folks at Stack Overflow, who received it from a company called CipherCloud, regarding this material on Stack Exchange.

The Stack Exchange community discussed the notice here, the Hacker News community had a fascinating discussion about it here, and wired covered the controversy.

All well worth a look, especially if you're interested in ways in which the DMCA and other takedown request paradigms are affecting online discourse.

Chilling Effects

A joint project of the Electronic Frontier Foundation and Harvard, Stanford, Berkeley, University of San Francisco, University of Maine, George Washington School of Law, and Santa Clara University School of Law clinics.

Do you know your online rights? Have you received a letter asking you to remove information from a Web site or to
Access to information

Data that sheds light on how laws and policies affect Internet users and the flow of information online.

Browse the current reports

- **Government requests to remove content**
  A list of the number of requests we receive from governments to review or remove content from Google products.

- **Requests for information about our users**
  A list of the number of requests we received from governments to hand over user data and account information.

- **Requests by copyright owners to remove search results**
  Detailed information on requests by copyright owners or their representatives to remove web pages from Google search results.

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**Chilling Effects**

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Do you know your online rights? Have you received a letter asking you to remove information from a web site or to take down a blog post in order to avoid a lawsuit under the DMCA? Many lawyers are filing lawsuits under Section 512(f) of the DMCA, the so-called safe harbor for copyright infringement. They often base their cases on searches of Chilling Effects, an online database that allows anyone to see complaints that have been filed against web sites and service providers.

Ongoing research in that vein turned up this notice that we have in our database courtesy of the folks at Stack Overflow, who received it from a company called CipherCloud, regarding this material on Stack Exchange.

The Stack Exchange community discussed the notice here, the Hacker News community had a fascinating discussion about it here, and WIRED covered the controversy.

All well worth a look, especially if you're interested in ways in which the DMCA and other takedown request paradigms are affecting online discourse.
Some Clear Facts About Google's "Transparency" Report

May 30, 2012

Late last week, Google published a "Transparency Report" showing the number of requests it receives from copyright owners to remove search links to infringing material. In its blog posting, Google acknowledged that fighting piracy is very important and that it doesn't want search results directing people to materials that violate copyright laws. It is good to see that Google agrees with this fundamental principle and continues to take steps to deter infringement. Transparency is also important -- knowing which infringing sites receive the most notices presents an important red flag regarding those sites.

But even more transparency is needed to fully understand the scope of the problem. Knowing the total number of links to infringing material available and the limitations Google imposes on rights owners to search for infringements reveals how much the number of notices is relative to the vast amount of infringing material available.

A joint project of the Electronic Frontier Foundation and Harvard, Stanford, Berkeley, University of San Francisco, University of Maine, George Washington School of Law, and Santa Clara University School of Law clinics.

Do you know your online rights? Have you received a letter asking you to remove information from a Web site or to...
Is Google’s ‘Transparency Report’ too Opaque?—The Russian Case

Blog Administrator

Search and service providers such as Google are sometimes asked by governments to remove content and release user data. When they comply, they are criticized for breaching fundamental rights of freedom of expression and privacy. LSE’s Alexandra Kulikova examines the state of Internet content regulation in Russia and asks: Is Google’s ‘Transparency Report’ transparent enough?

On 23 January 2013 Google published its latest half-year Transparency Report providing details on its compliance with data requests from national governments. In Russia, and all around the world, requests have been growing. The US, India, and Western European countries have made many more data requests than have Russian authorities, and as is seen from the report table, Google complies with the majority of those countries’ requests. In comparison, Russia’s requests had gone unfulfilled during early report periods.

Now, for the first time, Google is showing some compliance with Russian authorities. According to the report for the period between July and December 2012, Google received 97 data disclosure requests at 125 law enforcement agencies that resulted in data produced by Google. That percentage is very low.

But even more transparency is needed to fully understand the scope of the problem. Knowing the total number of links to infringing material available and the limitations Google imposes on rights owners to search for infringements reveals how meager the number of notices is relative to the vast amount of infringement. Google’s Transparency Report is an important step, but it cannot be the only one. Transparency must be the core of any solution for this problem.
UPDATE How Google's Transparency Report Team Censors Criticism of Its Report #dcif

Brian Fitzpatrick

started by disclosing data about government requests. Since then, we've been steadily adding new features, like graphs showing ...
A petition for greater transparency

Today we filed an amended petition (PDF) in the U.S. Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. This petition mirrors the requests made to Congress and the President by our industry and civil liberties groups in a letter (PDF) earlier this year. Namely, that Google be allowed to publish detailed statistics about the types (if any) of national security requests we receive under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, including Section 702. Given the important public policy issues at stake, we have also asked the court to hold its hearing in open rather than behind closed doors. It’s time for more transparency.

In addition, along with a number of other companies and trade associations, we are meeting the President’s Group on Intelligence and Communications Technologies today. We’ll reiterate the same message there: that the levels of scrutiny that have built up around national security requests undermine the basic freedoms that are at the heart of a democratic society.

Posted by Richard Salgado, Director, Law Enforcement & Information Security and Pablo Chavez, Director, Public Policy and Government Affairs

(Cross-posted on the Public Policy Blog)
A petition for greater transparency

Posted: Monday, September 09, 2013

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Posted by Richard Salgado, Director, Law Enforcement & Information Security and Pablo Chavez, Director, Public Policy and Government Affairs

(Cross-posted on the Public Policy Blog)

Related Resources
- [Build Your Own DMCA Notice Block](http://www.dmca.com/Protection/BuildNotice.aspx)
- [Legal Scholarship](http://www.law.harvard.edu/)
- [Chilling Effects](http://www.chillingeffects.org/)
- [Online Media Law Network](http://www.medialaw.org/)
- [Chilling Effects (Chinese)](http://www.chillingeffects.org/zh/)

UPDATE How Google’s Transparency Report Team Censors Criticism of Its Report #dcif

Brian Fitzpatrick

started by disclosing data about government requests. Since then, we’ve been steadily adding new features, like graphs showing...
2. WHAT IS TRANSPARENCY?

Transparency is about shedding light on rules, plans, processes and actions. It is knowing why, how, what, and how much. Transparency ensures that public officials, civil servants, managers, board members and businessmen act visibly and understandably, and report on their activities. And it means that the general public can hold them to account. It is the surest way of guarding against corruption, and helps increase trust in the people and institutions on which our futures depend. 

• strong presence of optics

• belief in truth as the basis for political action

• bundled with accountability and democracy
• Transparency requires the production of accounts.

• Accounts are always already indexical, partial, contestable.

• Uncertainty about the ultimate meaning of accounts triggers more demand for clarity, revelation, and … transparency.
• How is transparency achieved?

• What does transparency conceal?

• What are the evils of transparency?

• To what extent has transparency become industrialized?