

THE CONSTITUTION PROJECT



Safeguarding Liberty, Justice & the Rule of Law

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Voluntary Cyber Plan is "Significant First Step," TCP Says *Sloan urges larger role for privacy standards in future versions*

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Virginia Sloan, president of The Constitution Project, a bipartisan legal watchdog group, offered the following comment on the release earlier today of a voluntary Cybersecurity Framework by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST):

"Effective cybersecurity is not possible without robust privacy protections. While we believe that the Fair Information Practice Principles will need to play a larger role in future versions of the Framework, we recognize that setting out a process for considering privacy measures is a significant first step. We appreciate NIST's openness and inclusiveness throughout the development of the Framework. And we look forward to ongoing discussions with industry leaders as we identify and promote best practices."

The Cybersecurity Framework is a set of voluntary minimum guidelines intended to help companies better protect themselves against cyberthreats. It was developed by NIST in response to Executive Order 13636, which President Obama signed exactly one year ago. Although the standards were developed by the federal agency in close consultation with industry experts and privacy advocates, companies are under no obligation to adopt them.

The Fair Information Practice Principles are a set of broad benchmarks for protecting privacy and civil liberties when companies collect, retain, use, share, or sell their customers' personal information. They are at the core of the Privacy Act of 1974, and are mirrored in the laws of many U.S. states, as well as in those of foreign nations and international organizations.

TCP's Liberty and Security Committee offered its advice on privacy protections in its 2012 report, [*Recommendations for the Implementation of a Comprehensive and Constitutional Cybersecurity Policy*](#).

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About The Constitution Project

Created out of the belief that we must cast aside the labels that divide us in order to keep our democracy strong, The Constitution Project (TCP) brings together policy experts and legal practitioners from across the political spectrum to foster consensus-based solutions to the most difficult constitutional challenges of our time. TCP seeks to reform the nation's broken criminal justice system and to strengthen the rule of law through scholarship, advocacy, policy reform and public education initiatives. Established in 1997, TCP is based in Washington, D.C.