



Federal Trade Commission

Deborah Platt Majoras¹
Chairman, Federal Trade Commission
The IAPP Privacy Summit
March 7, 2007

Building A Culture of Privacy and Security -- Together

I. Introduction

It is a great pleasure to speak to what I understand is “the largest gathering of privacy professionals in the world.” In preparing to speak to you, I went to the IAPP web site to try to learn how your organization defines a privacy professional, and I discovered that the site has been sponsoring a challenge for IAPP members on this very topic. According to some of you, a “Privacy Pro” is: “a juggler, a diplomat, a guardian, an enforcer, a psychologist, and a genius”; “a bodyguard of your identity, protecting your personal information from thieves, busybodies, bullies, wanna-be big brothers”; “the new sheriff in town in today’s Wild West”; “a traffic cop”; and “a mystic on the mountain of the corporate world.”

I have no doubt that there are some days when you feel that you are expected to perform all of these roles. But the answer that struck me was one that described a privacy professional as someone “who lives on the edge of a sword,” ensuring that his or her organization “safeguards its

¹ These remarks are my own and do not necessarily represent the views of the Commission or any other Commissioner.

