

From: Raleigh Stout [mailto:raleigh.stout@REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2013 2:51 PM
To: datacollection
Subject: Comments on FTC Data Collection Workshop

Dear FTC Data Collection Workshop,

Please accept my comments about comprehensive data collection practices.

1. I have noticed that many websites refuse to display content to me until I enable cookie permissions. I am not comfortable with this, especially since I choose which cookie permissions to enable on a daily basis. I note that I have never found a government web site that refuses to render its content until I activate cookie permissions for such websites. However, it is more common with commercial websites. Enabling of cookies for commercial websites scares me because I do not wish to be tracked online. My private surfing habits are not for sale and I derive no monetary or other benefit from entities off my own radar that seek to profit at my expense.

2. I turn on the I Do Not Wish To Be Tracked function in my web browser. I am disappointed that nothing actually happens and that I am tracked anyway because no one is observing or complying with this wish. Internet entities must be forced to comply with my wishes soon or this option in the web browser means absolutely nothing. Please do what you can to fix it and start enforcing it through a law.

3. I commonly receive SPAM / UCE emails in my Yahoo! Mail account.

If I choose to forward these emails to the spam@uce.gov address provided for by law, Yahoo! Mail can and does block my emails. So far, Yahoo! Mail has twice blocked my emails to spam@uce.gov on the basis that I am creating a suspicious email. This is stupid and a law must be enacted to permit private communications to government to be transmitted without censorship by an email provider with a for-profit interest in blocking complaints about unsolicited advertising or phishing or marketing emails. I have no confidence or assurance that the Yahoo! Mail SPAM folder actually reports and processes SPAM emails for reporting to the federal government in accordance with the CAN SPAM Act. I like to do the emails myself because the law provides for my input and because I am reassured that the federal government actually sees my SPAM and because I like to feel like I am taking some personal and positive action to pursue a relief under existing law.

Yahoo! Mail represents a for-profit entity that has a vested interest in opening marketing and advertising opportunities as broadly as possible because there is going to be a revenue for Yahoo! as it permits SPAM emails to arrive in my inbox in the first place. Yahoo!

does not count as suspicious the SPAM emails it allows to my inbox, but happily blocks my outgoing emails to spam@uce.gov as suspicious.

Something is wrong and this offense must be repaired by a law permitting private citizens to communicate without censorship to its federal government at all levels.

4. I recently began using a new computer operating system called Linux Mint 14. I noticed that this operating system has built-in bookmarks and links that generate click revenue for the Linux Mint developer community if I choose to use them. I am not very happy with this arrangement as I receive no revenue or income that is entirely generated on my own private Internet activities. I do not like my web surfing to be monitored for profit by anyone. Additionally, the Linux Mint 14 operating system has specially configured tracking of my search activities and other web activities that intrude on my privacy and the appearance of intrusion into my privacy. For example, various search engines, such as Yahoo! Search, are configured with a tracking mechanism to report my searches to Linux Mint in a revenue

sharing scheme. Additionally, I saw in my private Yahoo! Mail account that a Linux Mint application called "minty" was associated with the rendering and tracking of my private emails and SPAM emails. I believe that Yahoo! Mail and Linux Mint community have a revenue sharing agreement in place that is based on tracking my incoming private emails and on tracking my SPAM emails and possibly other personal activities I may perform in Yahoo! Mail. I am extremely unhappy that I was never consulted or informed about such a tracking mechanism. If and when I can get away from using Linux Mint 14 as my operating system, I will gladly replace it for another one in order to secure my own privacy.

Please take special attention to my four issues outlined above. I am not happy with any of these situations and I implore you to write a bill and get a law passed to protect my privacy and security online.

Sincerely,

Raleigh D. Stout
Greensboro, NC