

## FTC Robocall Challenges Twitter Chat 2015

On Thursday, April 16, FTC staff in the Division of Marketing Practices hosted a Twitter Chat to discuss the FTC's latest robocall challenges: [Robocalls: Humanity Strikes Back](#) and [DetectaRobo](#). Staff used the FTC's primary account, @FTC, for the chat and the primary hashtag was: #DefeatRobocalls.

**Note:** Tweets in their original order remain on the FTC's Twitter account for as long as Twitter allows.

Staff will be online in less than 2 hours to discuss <http://t.co/TfR2MAld3t> & <http://t.co/3bCF8TwKsd>. Join us at 9pm ET! #DefeatRobocalls

FTC's Twitter Chat on robocall challenges starts in a few minutes! <http://t.co/nswkidwXsl>  
#DefeatRobocalls #EndRobocalls #DEFCON #DEFCON23

Hi, this is Patty Hsue - I lead FTC's tech initiatives against robocalls. Excited to answer your ?s tonight. #DefeatRobocalls

Who is joining me for the chat tonight? #DefeatRobocalls #DEFCON #Robocalls

Anyone have a question? Don't be shy! #DefeatRobocalls

Q1 MT from ██████████ - He asked about data sets for contestants to practice on for DetectaRobo contest. #DefeatRobocalls

A1 1st 50 contestants will receive 2 data sets, 1 will B training set. Additional info will B posted on website soon. #DefeatRobocalls

Q2 ██████████ What new ideas are there to #DefeatRobocalls? Things don't seem to be working very well. Lot of digital evasion.

A2 Our 3rd & 4th robocall contests designed 2 stimulate new ideas & solutions! Looking forward 2 what people come up with. #DefeatRobocalls

Q3 RT ██████████ How will the FTC contests help in the fight against robocalls?  
#DefeatRobocalls

A3 The FTC's first robocall challenge resulted in new products on market -- hoping for more solutions to help consumers. #DefeatRobocalls

Q4 MT ██████████ Why can't every home/provider have 1 button block functionality...?  
Manual entry makes no sense. #DefeatRobocalls

A4 I agree that user-friendly solutions are important. That's one component of Robocalls: Humanity Strikes Back contest. #DefeatRobocalls

Q5 RT [REDACTED] #DefeatRobocalls Who sells them our phone numbers in the first place?

A5 Robocallers get numbers from multiple sources: lead generators, phone books or dialing a sequential block of numbers. #DefeatRobocalls

Q6 RT [REDACTED] @FTC how many consumers have downloaded & now actively use these tools on a daily basis? #DefeatRobocalls

A6 We're responding 2 consumer demand by stimulating solutions via contests; don't track usage. See individual biz 4 info. #DefeatRobocalls

Q7 MT [REDACTED] Can you include some #anthropology to understand robocall motivation? What do robocallers get out of it? #DefeatRobocalls

A7 Most robocalls are scams looking for your hard-earned money! See how they work. #DefeatRobocalls <image: <https://twitter.com/FTC/status/588878830003167232>>

Q8 RT [REDACTED] How will the contest winners' technology be used? Will @FTC use it? Will phone companies? #DefeatRobocalls

A8 Want more solutions/choices for consumers to #DefeatRobocalls! We hope winner(s) will bring product(s) to market! <http://t.co/HVje3vuS0m>

Sorry about that -- just sent a corrected tweet for A8. #DefeatRobocalls

Q9 MT [REDACTED] Glad to hear these ideas ... why can't the FTC find and stop these callers? #DefeatRobocalls

A9 VoIP technology allows scammers to cheaply spoof calls from anywhere in the world. Makes difficult to ID + find them. #DefeatRobocalls

Hi all! Really great questions so far. I have about 10 more minutes left. Keep 'em coming! #DefeatRobocalls

Q10 MT [REDACTED] #DefeatRobocalls Why does phone co. let scammers put whatever they want on "caller ID", if consumer has to pay for it?

A10 There are some legit reasons to change caller ID name, i.e., a co. using toll-free no. for consumers to call. 1/2 #DefeatRobocalls

A10 BUT, robocallers spoofing a number to hide their identity is illegal. 2/2 #DefeatRobocalls

Thanks for joining! If you have more questions about the FTC's contests, please email me: [robocallcontests@ftc.gov](mailto:robocallcontests@ftc.gov). #DefeatRobocalls

PS - you should be working on your Strike Back submissions NOW! They're due June 15: <http://t.co/3bCF8TwKsd> #DefeatRobocalls

We'll have more info for June 6th contest, <http://t.co/TfR2MAld3t>, soon. See you online for National Day of Civic Hacking! #DefeatRobocalls