

Respondent Perceptions:

What happens after Legislation and Technology Collide, Collaborate and Compromise

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Case Study:

Cybersecurity vs. Respondent Confidentiality

Federal 2015 Cybersecurity Enhancement Act

Big law, lots of fine print, complicated IT specifications



Requires the installation of the Department of Homeland Security's EINSTEIN cybersecurity protection system on all Federal civilian information technology systems.

Implementation Process



CIPSEA vs. Cybersecurity Enhancement Act

- Confidential Information Protection and Efficiency Statistical Act
- Only BLS employees, agents and partners can access BLS data
- Data can only be used for statistical purposes
- New cybersecurity technology 'trumps' CIPSEA
- DHS can access BLS information if flagged
- Information can be used to identify and mitigate cybersecurity threats

Updating Pledge Language

Informed
Consent

Alarming
Respondents



Updating Pledge Language

Informed

C

Per the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015, Federal information systems are protected from malicious activities through cybersecurity screening of transmitted data.

g
nts



Research

- Understand R reactions to current pledge
- Explore understanding and reaction to new language
- Predict potential impact on survey response
 - ▶ 8 Data Collector Focus Groups (FG)
 - ▶ 24 Respondent Cognitive Interviews (CI)
 - ▶ 864 Online Survey Respondents



Results

- Confidentiality isn't top concern, with variation by survey topic and establishment size (FG)
- Past Rs didn't recall pledge (or survey topic!) (CI)
- General sense of comfort with assurances (FG & CI)
- No strong reactions to old or new language (CI)
- No impact of pledge wording on response rate, item non response or attrition (Online Experiment)

Conclusions

Agencies have to make their own decisions about ethical and legal obligations

- What to tell respondents and when
- Full understanding of what is required by the law and the IT processes is required by all relevant parties
- The negotiations can be time consuming and are best done early
- Allow time to research the potential impact

Take Aways

- When facing overlapping mandates, it's not enough to think about the legislation or technology
- The respondents and public also need to be considered, their trust must be maintained
- Data security is only an issue if we have data to keep secure!