

**Robinson+Cole**

## Data Privacy + Cybersecurity Insider

Leveraging Knowledge to Manage Your Data Risks



### CYBERSECURITY

#### [IRS Warns of Phishing Email Spoofing IRS and FBI](#)

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has issued a warning alerting the public to a new email phishing scam that looks like a joint notice from the IRS and FBI about new tax laws. The phishing email uses the emblems of both agencies and asks recipients to download an FBI questionnaire related to “changes of tax laws of the United States.” When recipients click on the link, ransomware infects and encrypts the users’ data. [Read more](#)

### ENFORCEMENT + LITIGATION

#### [Why Was Facebook Fined by AEPD?](#)

The Spanish data protection agency (AEPD) fined Facebook 1.2 million euros (\$1.4 million USD) in connection with how the company collects personal data for advertising purposes. The AEPD said Facebook did not get properly informed consent from users before exploiting this data as well as kept it longer than its useful purpose.

In a statement, Facebook claimed the AEPD was wrong to say it showed people advertising based on personal data. It said ad targeting was instead based on the interest people express by “liking” certain content on the social network platform. [Read more](#)

### HEALTH INFORMATION PRIVACY

#### [The Biggest Health Care Data Breaches in 2017](#)

Health Data Management (HDM), using information compiled by Protenus Breach Barometer, [published a list](#) this week of the biggest health care data breaches so far in 2017. The list used data accessible on the Office for Civil Rights website regarding self-reported breaches by health care entities. According to HDM, approximately 200 data breaches, affecting more than 500 individuals, have been reported to the OCR at the time the list was

September 14, 2017

#### FEATURED AUTHORS:

[Kathleen E. Dion](#)  
[Linn Foster Freedman](#)  
[James Merrifield](#)  
[Kathryn M. Rattigan](#)

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## DATA PRIVACY

### **State of Connecticut Provides Guidance on Changes to Education Records of Transgender Students**

The Connecticut State Department of Education (DOE) recently published guidance on implementing civil rights protections for transgender students. The guidance, in part, provides information on issues related to requests that a school change a student's education records to be consistent with a student's chosen name and gender identity. Notably, the guidance recognizes tension that may arise in some circumstances over who is entitled to request a change to a student's education records. [Read more](#)

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## DRONES

### **Fire Departments Across the Country Use Drones for Faster Response**

Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV or drones) are being sent out to fire locations as scouts, using gas sensors and cameras with thermal imaging technology, to help fire departments in their rescue efforts. With this new tool, fire departments are discovering that drones are the fastest way to put out a fire. Battalion chief of the Fremont Fire Department in Northern California said, "One of the reasons why [drones] can save lives is [that they are] so quick to deploy. What used to take 10 or 15 minutes can now be done in two or three minutes." And, it's not just fire departments in Northern California. A growing number of cities across the country are turning to drones. Between 300 and 400 police and fire departments now use drones, and that number is growing quickly. [Read more](#)

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## PRIVACY TIP #105

### **Data Breach Woes**

I spend a lot of time and effort to protect the privacy of my personal information. I am very careful. I have pretty good security hygiene. But I don't have total control of my personal information, and it is frustrating. I am hearing the same sentiments from many of you.

My information has been compromised on multiple occasions over the past two years (including the one announced last week) by companies who have my data. I didn't send my personal information to these companies, and I don't always know why they have it or why

they have kept it for years after it was no longer relevant.

As soon as I find out that I may possibly be part of a data breach, I sign up for whatever product the company is offering. I have done this three times in the past two years. Most of these products will alert you if anyone has opened an account under your name. It is difficult to prevent fraud when you find out about an opened fraudulent account after the fact.

I often agree with Brian Krebs and have heeded his advice over the years by placing a security freeze on my accounts so supposedly no one can open an account, including me, until the freeze has been lifted, so you can actually prevent fraud. It appears to be working.

Here is [Brian Krebs's piece](#) about placing a credit freeze on your accounts, which you may wish to consider before you are notified that you have been involved in a data breach.

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