



House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee Holds Hearing on Data Security

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Reading Time : **2 min**

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During the second panel, witnesses from Target and Neiman Marcus reprised their testimony from the previous Senate hearing, again offering apologies to their customers and explaining their role in the breach investigations and the measures they have taken to remedy potential harm to their customers. Bob Russo of PCI Security Standards discussed the work his firm has done to improve payment card data security around the globe, while Phillip Smith from Trustwave described his firm's experience in consulting on data security for other companies.

As in the previous Senate Judiciary Committee [hearing](#), government witnesses, as well as the retailer witnesses, faced a large amount of scrutiny regarding the recent data breaches, including when they were discovered, how the breaches were carried out and the results of the current investigations. In general, members of the Subcommittee agreed that the United States is facing a rising tide of malicious cyber attacks and that the federal government must work together with states and private industry to develop better protections against data theft. Many of the witnesses supported a federal standard for data security and breach notification, so long as the standard is developed through a stakeholder process and provides sufficient flexibility to adapt to ever-changing technology. Republican members of the Subcommittee, in particular Chairman Lee Terry (R-NE), took this sentiment further, arguing that private industry (rather than the federal government) should take the lead in developing best practices, which could then be adopted into a national standard.

On February 6, the Obama Administration announced it has invited privacy and civil liberties groups to meet at the White House for an "informal conversation to discuss issues at the intersection of Big Data and Privacy" and an opportunity to "help frame the efforts" of the

Big Data review President Obama announced during a speech on proposed reforms to the nation's surveillance practices.

Despite the recent focus on data security, several other priorities hold Congress's immediate attention, including raising of the debt ceiling, finalization of a budget agreement and immigration reform. While it is possible that additional hearings or mark-ups of recently introduced legislation will be held, they have yet to be scheduled. Many of the legislative data security proposals vary from committee to committee, so it is unclear whether a bipartisan bicameral consensus can be reached in this Congress.

Categories

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