

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 11, 2011

Mr. Mark Zuckerberg
CEO
Facebook
1601 S. California Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 93404

Dear Mr. Zuckerberg:

An article in today's Wall Street Journal reports that a security vulnerability on Facebook provided advertisers, analytics firms, and other third parties the capability to access Facebook users' accounts and personal information (Wall Street Journal, "Facebook Security Flaw Exposed User Accounts", May 11, 2011). According to the article, this exposure reportedly lasted "for years." While Facebook reportedly now has fixed this particular issue, we remain concerned about how the problem arose in the first place, was allowed to persist undetected for such a long period of time, and could recur in some form in the future. Moreover, we also are disturbed to learn of this issue after we raised similar concerns in our October 18, 2010 correspondence with Facebook following reports that various third party applications gathered and transmitted personally identifiable information about Facebook users and those users' friends. This issue is one that cannot be ignored and our concerns about Facebook's privacy policies are continuously increasing. We request responses to the questions that follow.

1. According to the Wall Street Journal article cited above, Facebook first learned of the leakage of the personal data of its users the second week of April 2011. Is this accurate? If yes, what steps did Facebook take to fix this problem? Did Facebook employ an outside firm in its effort to stop the data leakage? If not, why not?
2. The article above states that "hundreds of thousands of applications may have inadvertently leaked millions of access tokens to third parties." Is this consistent with Facebook's understanding of the extent of the data leakage? If not, why not, and what is Facebook estimate of the magnitude of the data leakage?
3. A Facebook spokesperson is quoted in the report as stating that Facebook's thorough investigation of this matter has turned up "no evidence of this issue resulting in a user's private information being shared with unauthorized third parties." How was this investigation conducted? Was it conducted exclusively by Facebook? Was Facebook's determination validated by a third party? If yes, which one(s)? Please explain.
4. In a company blog, Symantec researcher Nishant Doshi wrote that "[T]he repercussions of this access token leakage are seen far and wide... We fear a lot of these tokens might still be available in log files of third-party servers or still being actively used by

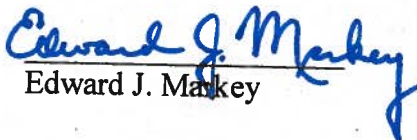
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advertisers. "What is Facebook doing to inform users of this problem? Has Facebook informed users that they can change their Facebook passwords to invalidate leaked access tokens, as recommended by Symantec? If not, why not?"

5. According to the Wall Street Journal article, this data leakage persisted "for years". Is this accurate? If not, what is Facebook's estimate of the duration of this problem?
6. Is this data access for third parties a violation of Facebook's privacy policy? In Facebook's October 29, 2010 response to our October 18, 2010 correspondence, Facebook indicated that Facebook had "[I]dentified fewer than a dozen developers that were intentionally sharing User IDs (UID) with a data broker, in violation of our terms." Did any of these developers have access to Facebook users' information as part of the data leakage that is the subject of today's Wall Street Journal article? If yes, which ones?
7. In Facebook's response to our October 18th correspondence, Facebook indicated that the company "[E]mploys a dedicated Platform Operations team and a suite of sophisticated tools to detect and prevent third party applications from violating Facebook policies." Is the problem described in today's Wall Street Journal within the scope of responsibility of this team? If not, which Facebook team is responsible? Was the suite of tools described in Facebook's October 29th response to our correspondence applied to this matter? If not, why not?

Please provide responses to these questions within 15 business days or no later than June 2, 2011. If you have questions, please have a member of your staff contact Mark Bayer in Rep. Markey's office at 202-225-2836 or Emmanuel Guillory in Rep. Barton's office at 202-225-2002.

Sincerely,


Edward J. Markey


Joe Barton