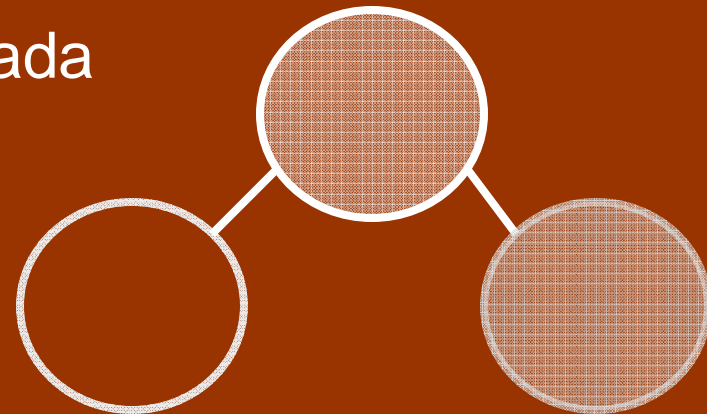


Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada
Commissariat à la protection de la vie privée du Canada

Protecting Privacy in a Global Internet Economy

Jennifer Stoddart
Privacy Commissioner of Canada



June 16, 2008 Seoul, Korea



Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada

Oversee compliance with:

- The Privacy Act
 - Applies to government institutions
- The Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA)
 - Applies to the private sector, including IT companies



PIPEDA

- PIPEDA did not anticipate the explosion of global data flows
- PIPEDA is technologically neutral
- Differs from EU laws
 - No registration of data processors/controllers
 - No prohibition on data flows out of Canada – no adequacy provision
- Transfers of personal information from Canada governed by Accountability Principle



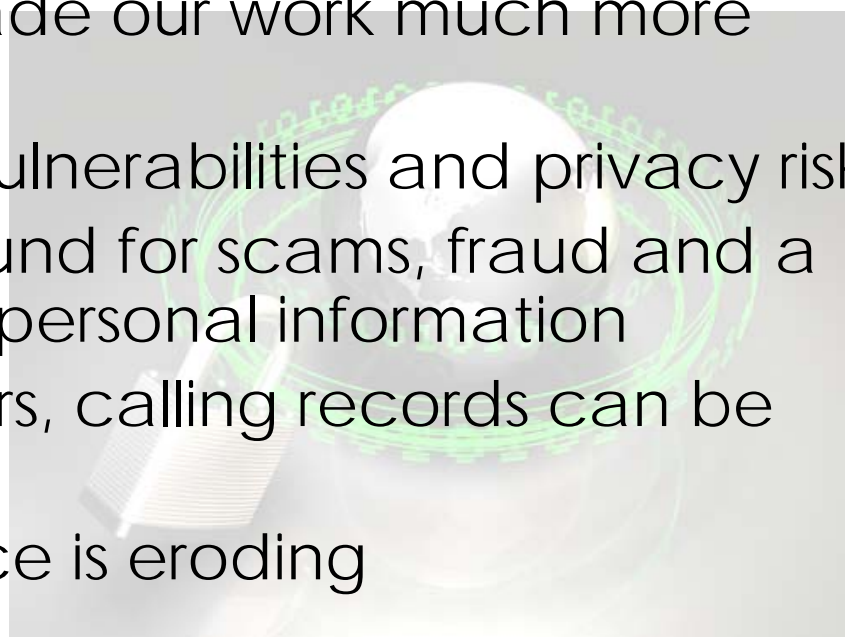
Power of the Internet

- Revolutionized the way we learn, do business, communicate, socialize and interact with our governments
- Profound effect on the work of OPC
- Can be used to make individuals aware of privacy rights and provide advice to businesses and government institutions
- Our web site receives more than 1.5 million hits per year
- Launched new youth privacy web site - youthprivacy.ca



The Impact on Privacy

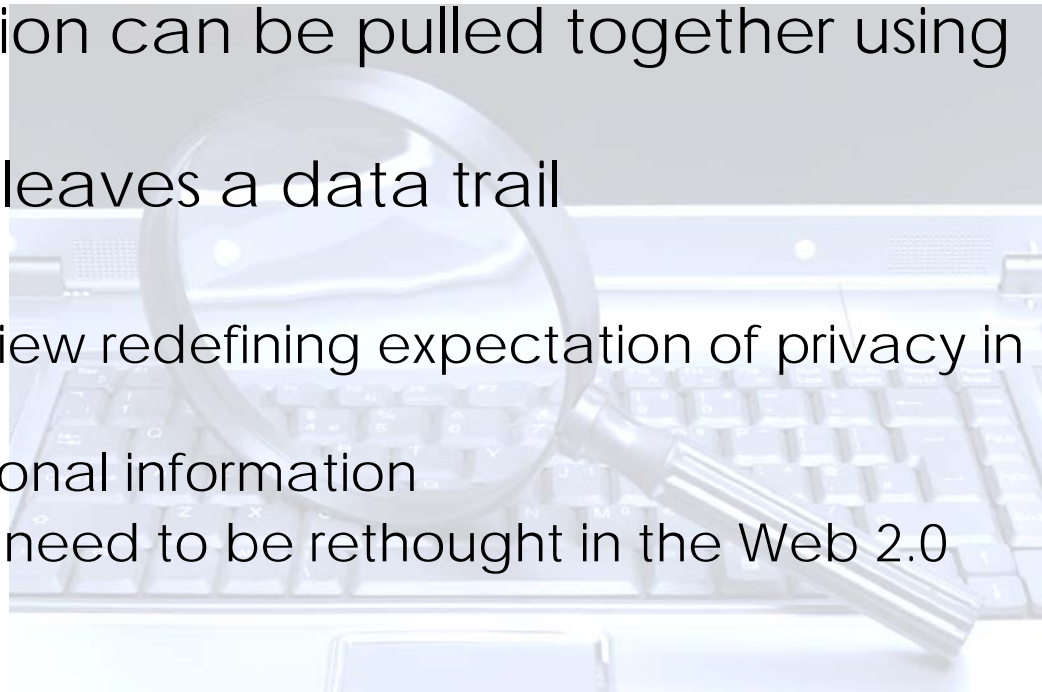
- The Internet has made our work much more challenging
- Creates potential vulnerabilities and privacy risks
- Ideal breeding ground for scams, fraud and a source of valuable personal information
- Credit card numbers, calling records can be purchased online
- Trust and confidence is eroding





The Impact on Privacy

- Personal information can be pulled together using search engines
- Online searching leaves a data trail
- New issues:
 - Google's Street View redefining expectation of privacy in public spaces
 - Definitions of personal information
 - Privacy laws may need to be rethought in the Web 2.0





The Death of Distance

- Information in public registries can be accessed with a click of a mouse
- Phishing scams, viruses and spyware can originate anywhere in the world
- Hackers in one country can gain access to databases in another country that contain information from consumers around the world





A Way Forward

- More emphasis on data security
- The data protection community should be open to working with anti-spam organizations, cyber-security and law enforcement authorities
- Privacy and data security standards that provide an acceptable level of protection
- This does not mean a single global standard or one approach to protecting privacy; we need to respect legal, social and cultural differences



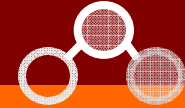
A Way Forward

- Rather than focusing on differences in our laws we should focus on outcomes and results
- We need laws to fight spam, combat identity theft, require breach notification
- Protecting privacy and building confidence cannot be done on a country-by-country basis
- We must work collectively and collaboratively on privacy and security issues



A Way Forward

- Involved in a number of international organizations
 - The OECD
 - The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
 - The Asia Pacific Privacy Authorities Forum
 - International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
 - l'Association francophone des autorités de protection des données personnelles (AFAPDP)
- Presence of important stakeholders in Seoul provides an opportunity to further the work of the OECD on Cross-border Privacy Co-operation



Questions?

More information:

www.privcom.gc.ca

