

From: Alex Fraser
To: [Assistance Bill Consultation](#)
Subject: Submission to consultation on the Assistance and Access Bill 2018
Date: Sunday, 9 September 2018 9:15:09 PM

Dear Minister,

I am writing to register my opposition to the proposed legislation titled "The Assistance and Access Bill 2018". As a senior developer and software engineer with more than 11 years of professional experience, the bill concerns me greatly.

First, allow me to clarify something: despite the bill's attempts to distance itself from such language, it would allow the Government to compel companies and individuals to install back doors in software and systems that they develop.

It is not possible to create software that allows interception of communications in a manner that preserves privacy. If an encrypted message between two parties can be read (or modified) by a third party, then no trust can be placed in that message without also trusting that third party.

Neither is it possible to ensure oversight: compliant systems would certainly be misused by those in positions of authority, and by future governments – the intentions of whom the current Government cannot possibly know.

This bill would erode our human rights, it would erode trust in our communications systems, and it would erode trust in Australian technology companies. I am horrified to think that I could one day be compelled to build systems that enable this repulsive bill.

Yours sincerely,
Alex Fraser

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