From: Jason Byway
To: Assistance Bill Consultation
Cc: [redacted]; Jason Byway
Subject: The Assistance and Access Bill 2018
Date: Monday, 10 September 2018 12:36:14 PM

Hello,

(cc - Matt Keogh)

I'm writing to voice my concerns and opposition to the proposed legislation known as The Assistance and Access Bill 2018.

Having worked in IT for my entire professional career which is now 15+ years I have a strong understanding of IT related topics and currently work for one of the tech companies who this legislation would be targeting. I am writing this as a concerned citizen of Australia though and wish to raise my concerns as I feel this is an overreach by the Australian government and excluding the fact it would be impossible to police globally, is an ill thought out piece of legislation, disguised as a means to 'protect' Australians from the 'bad guys'.

- There is little proof that these laws are needed as there's not been enough discussion as to what's driving it. There's been a lot of scaremongering that we are going to fight terrorists and paedophiles but this law seems to be just going after people for protection of public revenue.
- It undermines the point of end-to-end encryption and privacy of every Australian's personal information online.
- It will fundamentally weaken security for those online and therefore make it easier for criminals to access/abuse the data.
- Criminals, the supposed target of this legislation, will move to alternative encryption tools that this legislation aims to access. Encryption technology is cheap and easy to configure and can be done without using 3rd party programs (ie WhatsApp/Facebook Messenger) and therefore those criminals will just go deeper underground. This is no different to drug labs in suburbia - whack a mole with no hope of preventing.

I could continue however believe there is a great article written by Aaron Brantly, published on the US Military Academy website that can be accessed at https://ctc.usma.edu/banning-encryption-to-stop-terrorists-a-worse-than-futile-exercise/ which makes a great argument against this legislation.

The abstract highlights many good points.

Abstract: *Terrorist groups are increasingly using encryption to plan and coordinate terrorist acts, leading to calls for the banning or backdooring of* *encrypted messaging apps. This would be misguided. It would not remove the ability of terrorist groups to access this technology and may push them to communicate in ways that are more difficult for Western intelligence agencies to monitor. By creating vulnerabilities in online tools used by a very large number of Americans and other users around the world, it would also expose the broader society to increased security risks.*

Banning Encryption to Stop Terrorists: A Worse than Futile ...

Abstract: Terrorist groups are increasingly using encryption to plan and coordinate terrorist acts, leading to calls for the banning or backdooring of encrypted messaging apps. This would be misguided. It would not remove the ability of terrorist groups to

ctc.usma.edu

Regards

Jason Byway (please withhold address/phone if published online).

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