

Press Release
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EPIC Releases Obama Administration Privacy Report Card

Washington, DC -- EPIC released its Privacy Report Card for the Obama Administration at a morning briefing held at the National Press Club. EPIC scored the Administration with an "Incomplete" for Consumer Privacy, A- for Medical Privacy, C+ for Civil Liberties, and a B for Cyber Security.

Marc Rotenberg, EPIC Executive Director, said, "the Administration has made progress in some areas, but it is clear that there is more to do to address the public concerns about privacy."

Lillie Coney, EPIC Associate Director and Coordinator for the Privacy Coalition, said "the Administration can improve its grades by appointing pro-privacy Commissioners to the Federal Trade Commission, making the work of the Department of Homeland Security more transparent, requiring federal agencies to comply with the Privacy Act, and extending the Privacy Act to social networking services."

EPIC's grades were based on a review of the Administration's privacy initiatives. EPIC cited the vacancies on the Federal Trade Commission, the continuation of the Bush Administration's policies on the use of the "state's secrets privilege," the Department of Homeland Security's support for PASS ID, and privacy exemptions for social networking services as areas where the Administration has failed to protect privacy.

A panel of privacy experts offered their own perspective on how the Administration is doing on several key issues including: No-Fly list, border searches of digital devices, and behavioral marketing.

The scores given by EPIC did not reflect the public's participation in the online scorecard. The public's privacy report card for the Administration was "F" in all categories.

The Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC) is the nation's leading privacy research and advocacy organization. The Privacy Coalition is a nonpartisan coalition of consumer, civil liberties, educational, family, library, labor, and technology organizations, established in 1995.

EPIC Report Card: <http://epic.org/events/Privacy%20Report%20Card.pdf>

Public Score Card: <http://privacycoalition.org/reportcard/>

<http://epic.org>

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