FCC Mandates Surveillance Features in Phone System

August 27, 1999

Supporting Documents

The Federal Communications Commission has ordered the nation's phone companies to modify their systems to provide the FBI with added surveillance capabilities, under the 1994 Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA). While claiming to respect privacy, the FCC ruled in favor of the government on virtually all issues of privacy concern, including ruling that wireless phone companies must be able to provide the cell site of their cutomers at the beginning and end of every call, effectively turning cell phones into tracking devices. On packet mode communications, the Commision declined CDT's request that carriers be required to protect the privacy of packet communications that the government is not authorized to intercept. Instead, the Commission asked the industry for more information on the rapidly looming question of surveillance of packet networks.

The young liter of the substantive changes and clearly give us credit. Details.

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