

Amsterdam, 16 August 2017

To: 4chan
5042 Wilshire Blvd., #34441
Los Angeles, CA 90036
United States

Subject: Companies using 4chan data from 4chan users for their own databases, which they make available to law enforcement agencies in The Netherlands for information gathering.

Dear Madame/Sir,

At the moment we are investigating several Dutch companies that are providing social media data to Dutch law enforcement agencies. In regard to this matter, including their use of 4chan data for these purposes, we have several questions for you.

1. Is 4chan aware of the fact that companies are downloading (crawling) 4chan data for their own purposes?
2. Does 4chan allow companies to collect data from Dutch citizens – and probably other nationalities – in order for the companies to store the data in their own databases? If so, under which regulations or laws are the agreements between 4chan and these companies made?
3. Is 4chan aware that these companies make these databases available to their customers, who pay for this access/data?
4. These companies also make their databases available to law enforcement agencies for social and online media monitoring/surveillance purposes. Is 4chan aware of that? What kind of agreements between 4chan and data collection companies regulate the companies' making that data available to law enforcement agencies?
5. Are users in the Netherlands – and other countries - informed by 4chan about the fact that their data might be collected by Dutch companies for other purposes than the initial intention of the 4chan users? How are privacy, copyright and general surveillance issues dealt with between 4chan and these companies concerning the data from 4chan users?
6. Do these companies that collect 4chan data have a contract with 4chan? At the moment we are investigating several companies among which Coosto/Wiseguys Internet B.V., Buzzcapture and Obi4wan/Sitedata. Are these companies known to 4chan? Does 4chan publish a full list of Dutch companies which have 4chan's permission to collect data from its users?

Yours sincerely

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