

Information note to the Press (Press Release No. 57/2017)

For Immediate Release

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

TRAI releases consultation paper on “Privacy, Security and Ownership of the Data in the Telecom Sector”

New Delhi, 09 August 2017- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today released a consultation paper on “Privacy, Security and Ownership of the Data in the Telecom Sector”

2. The rapid evolution of telecommunications services in India has aided the overall economic and social development of the country. It has enabled better connectivity among users, increasing use of information and communication technology (ICT) services and emergence of a variety of new business models. Parallely, there has been a quantum leap in the quantity and value of data that is being generated through the use of modern communication services. Each step of a user's interaction with ICT services, whether through traditional telecom services, devices, applications or other forms of content, results in the generation of large amounts of data.

3. Availability of data has enhanced the business and efficiency potential of data analytics. However, it is equally important to assess whether the data rights of individuals are being adequately protected in this changing environment. Data protection may therefore mean the ability of individuals to understand and control the manner in which information pertaining to them can be accessed and used by others. The Authority is of the view that the users should be empowered in respect of ownership and control of his/her personal data and to ensure this, all the players in the eco-system are bound to follow certain safeguards while collecting, storing and using the data pertaining to their subscribers.

4. In light of the above, the Authority has suo-motu decided to go for a consultation paper on “Privacy, Security and Ownership of the Data in the Telecom Sector” with the stakeholders. The present consultation paper is being issued with the following objectives:

- (a) To identify the scope and definition of Personal data, Ownership and Control of data of users of telecom services.
- (b) Understand and Identify the Rights and Responsibilities of Data Controllers.



(c) To assess the adequacy and efficiency of data protection measures currently in place in the telecom sector.

(d) Identify the key issues pertaining to data protection in relation to the delivery of digital services. This includes the provision of telecom and Internet services by telecom and Internet service providers (TSPs) as well the other devices, networks and applications that connect with users through the services offered by TSPs and collect and control user data in that process.

5. Full text of the consultation is available on the website of trai i.e. www.trai.gov.in

6. Written comments on the consultation paper are invited from the stakeholders by 08 September 2017. Counter comments, if any, may be submitted by 22 September, 2017. Comments and counter comments will be posted on TRAI's website www.trai.gov.in. The comments/ counter-comments in electronic form may be sent by e-mail to arvind@trai.gov.in or bharatgupta.trai@gmail.com . For any clarification/ information, Shri Arvind Kumar, Advisor (BB&PA) may be contacted at Tel. No. +91-11-23220209; Fax: +91-11-23230056.


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