

# Executive Order on Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity

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## *What Others are Saying*

### Private-Sector

**Ajay Banga, Chair of the Business Roundtable (BRT) Information and Technology Committee and President and CEO, MasterCard Worldwide**

“We are encouraged that the Executive Order will facilitate additional information sharing between government and the private sector and look forward to working with the Administration to ensure that the voluntary standards framework proposed in the Executive Order is risk-based, agile and accommodating of evolving cybersecurity threats.”

**Michael Chertoff, Secretary of Homeland Security under President George W. Bush and Chairman of the Chertoff Group**

“Today the President has taken a critical step in protecting America by addressing two vital aspects of cybersecurity; information sharing and development of a cybersecurity framework. These activities represent a down payment in the protection of our Nation's cyber infrastructure, which Congress will build upon as they develop comprehensive cybersecurity legislation.”

**Mike McConnell, former Director of National Intelligence under President Obama and President George W. Bush Obama and Vice Chairman of Booz Allen Hamilton**

“The Executive Order (EO) issued today is a very good start, but the nation also clearly needs comprehensive cyber security legislation to protect our citizens and businesses from increasing cyber exploitation and destructive cyber attacks. We have witnessed growth in nation-state willingness to engage in cyber espionage and destructive attacks at alarming rates...An Executive Order signed by the President addresses some of these important issues, but mostly is limited to direction to the Executive Branch and does not have the power of legislation. The executive order provides improvements, but it does not take the place of legislation for the needed changes across the cyber security landscape.”

**Arthur W. Coviello, Jr. Executive Vice President, EMC Corporation and Executive Chairman, RSA, The Security Division of EMC**

“Cyber security continues to be critically important to our nation. EMC supports the President's efforts via Executive Order to help drive improved collaboration between the public and private sectors, however, the Executive Order only partially covers what's required. To protect our nation from threats in cyberspace, Congress must also pass legislation to provide the comprehensive resources and protections necessary to fully address cyber security.”

**Tom Kellermann, Vice President of Cyber Security for Trend Micro**

“I applaud the Executive Order. As a nation, we must act decisively to secure our critical infrastructure against cyber threats, and the Executive Order contains the right blend of privacy protections, increased information sharing, and basic cyber hygiene best practices which will sustain our national migration to Web 3.0.”

**Gerry Cauley, President and CEO, North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC)**

“Cyber security is an issue the electricity sector takes very seriously. NERC appreciates the emphasis the Executive Order places on continuing work with existing public/private partnerships as we address this critical issue.”

**Steve Davis, Executive Vice President for Public Policy and Government Relations, CenturyLink**

“Since our network is one of the central assets of our business, we've invested heavily in robust cybersecurity protections and created a governance, risk and compliance framework that leverages voluntary public-private partnerships with the federal government. As a leading provider of cybersecurity protections, CenturyLink is encouraged by the White House executive order's provisions to improve information sharing between government agencies and the private sector. A voluntary, flexible, balanced and collaborative partnership between government

agencies and the private sector is essential to improving the nation's cybersecurity posture. We also encourage the president to work with Congress on bipartisan legislation that establishes a legal framework for information sharing and liability protections.”

**Visa Inc.**

Visa is encouraged by the White House effort to secure our nation from cyber attacks through increased public-private collaboration. The Administration’s Executive Order lays out an approach that sensibly encourages information sharing and the adoption of existing security best practices. To build on this constructive first step, any Congressional action should address important remaining issues such as improving international cooperation to combat cybercrime. We look forward to working with the Administration and Congress under the new framework to combat this growing threat in a manner that best serves the interests of consumers, businesses and the nation as a whole.”

**Danielle Kriz, Director for Global Cybersecurity Policy, Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)**

The President’s framework is a down payment on the challenging task of protecting America’s citizens, critical assets, and infrastructures from ever-evolving cyber threats... With his directive, the President proposes meaningful steps to improve the nation’s cyber defenses. We stand ready to work with the Administration to implement the policies in ways that preserve innovation and enhance America’s cybersecurity posture. And we stand ready to work with Congress to complete the job through enactment of strategic, effective cybersecurity legislation.

**Alan Chvotkin, Executive Vice President, Professional Services Council**

“Moving us toward a standardized cybersecurity framework and bilateral risk sharing between the government and private sector will make government and industry systems safer from a cyber attack. However, we recognize that the administration faces limits on how far it can go in ensuring liability protections for those companies that meet the cyber standards being developed and that share risk information with the government. We will continue to encourage Congress to take swift action to provide those protections to companies meeting the foundation cyber protection requirements developed as a result of this order.”

**Cheri F. McGuire, Vice President, Global Government Affairs & Cybersecurity Policy, Symantec Corporation**

“Symantec is pleased that the Administration is taking concrete steps to strengthen the Nation’s cybersecurity posture – an essential component of our national and economic security. Today’s Executive Order directs the government to share more information with industry, creates a voluntary program for critical infrastructure providers, and requires the government to take its lead from globally accepted, consensus-based standards and best practices. But more needs to be done. For example, changes in law are needed to lift the legal barriers that currently constrain information sharing. We look forward to continuing to work with the Administration and the Congress on these important issues.”

**Ken Wasch, President, Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA)**

“SIIA congratulates President Obama and his Administration for making cybersecurity a priority. We appreciate the President’s efforts to seek broad input in crafting the Executive Order signed today.”

**Academia**

**Frank Cilluffo, Director of the Homeland Security Policy Institute at George Washington University and co-director of the Cyber Center for National and Economic Security (CCNES) at George Washington University**

“When you consider what's at stake, the President has a responsibility to prioritize cyber security as an issue requiring urgent attention and action. This executive order is a step in the right direction and will likely improve the government's ability to address cyber threats in a number of key ways, including by promoting security standards, clarifying agency roles, and increasing information sharing with the private sector. However, this executive order is no substitute for legislation - it is essential that Congress work in a bipartisan manner this year to develop legislation that can strengthen the incentives for private sector action on cyber security (notably indemnification of liability), facilitate better information sharing between the government and the private sector on cyber threats, and establish more flexible hiring authorities for cyber experts at federal agencies.”

## Privacy and Civil Liberties Advocates

### **Michelle Richardson, ACLU**

“The President’s Executive Order rightly focuses on cybersecurity programs that don’t negatively impact civil liberties. For example, greasing the wheels of information sharing from the government to the private sector is a privacy-neutral way to distribute critical cyber information. More encouragingly, the adoption of Fair Information Practice Principles for internal information sharing demonstrates a commitment to tried and true privacy practices.”

### **Leslie Harris, Center for Democracy and Technology**

“We are pleased that the Executive Order pays close attention to privacy and civil liberties. The mandate to incorporate protections based upon Fair Information Practice Principles into all agency activities under the E.O. is particularly welcome.”

### **Lillie Coney, Electronic Privacy Information Center**

“The focus on transparency is very much appreciated. In my opinion-- the E.O. sets the correct course of action for cyber security.”

### **Mary Ellen Callahan, former Chief Privacy Officer at the Department of Homeland Security, and Chair of the Internet Governance and Privacy Group at Jenner & Block**

"The Executive Order is an important first step in shoring up our cybersecurity ecosystem . . . outreach to the privacy community was extensive."

## Congress

### **Senator Patrick Leahy (VT), Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee**

“I appreciate the President’s Executive Order to strengthen our cybersecurity. Developing a comprehensive national cybersecurity strategy is one of the most serious and threatening unmet needs confronting the nation. Now Congress must do its part and enact meaningful solutions to enhance cybersecurity and better protect Americans’ digital privacy. New privacy laws to establish a single, national standard for data breach notification and to update the Electronic Communications Privacy Act are long overdue. The Judiciary Committee has made improving the security of our Nation’s computer networks one of its highest priorities. I look forward to working with the Obama administration and others in Congress to enact cybersecurity legislation that not only protects our security in cyberspace, but also respects our privacy and civil liberties.”

### **Senator Jay Rockefeller (WV), Chair of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation**

“President Obama understands that we must act to protect the country against the grave threat of cyber attacks. There is no doubt the President’s Executive Order will improve the partnership between the government and the private sector needed to defend our country. For years, I have worked with the private sector and national security experts to strengthen our nation’s cybersecurity. I strongly support the President’s action and I will continue to build on it by working on cybersecurity legislation in the weeks and months ahead.”

### **Senator Harry Reid (NV), Senate Majority Leader**

“I applaud the President for taking decisive action to improve our nation's defenses against cyber attacks. The President’s new Executive Order will significantly advance cybersecurity in the networks of our nation's critical infrastructure, and will facilitate more rapid, more effective sharing of time-sensitive threat information between the government and private sector. I hope this measure will also help us develop the broader awareness and capability needed to enable companies throughout the private sector to protect consumers and stem the loss of jobs and economic growth caused by intellectual property theft. As the President has rightly noted, the new Executive Order is no substitute for legislation, which is essential to address current gaps in authority. Until Congress acts, President Obama will be fighting to defend this country with one hand tied behind his back. I am eager to work with my colleagues on a bipartisan basis to develop and advance legislation as soon as possible.”

### **Senator Dianne Feinstein (CA), Chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee**

“The president's cybersecurity executive order is an important step to improving the security of the nation's public and private computer networks. The order will hopefully lead to voluntary implementation of best practices and

security standards for critical infrastructure and facilitate sharing of cyber threat information by the government to the private sector. Legislation is still needed to remove legal barriers to full sharing of information and to provide liability protections to encourage the best cyber measures possible.”

**Senator Tom Carper (DE), Chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee**

“The Internet touches the lives of everyone in American society on a daily basis. It’s where we communicate, work, shop, and bank. It also plays a vital role for key critical infrastructure, such as the electric grid, our water supply and our transportation networks. Yet every day, we learn of more cyber attacks that underscore just how vulnerable we really are to hackers seeking to steal from us or do us harm. Given all that relies on a safe and secure Internet, it is vital that we do what’s necessary to protect ourselves from these repeated attacks. Our nation needs a modern approach to ensuring the security of cyber space and while my colleagues and I in the Senate tried to move bipartisan legislation last year to address this threat, at the end of the day we weren’t able to come to consensus. That was unfortunate because the threat is so serious and it demands that we take action. We can’t continue to wait and remain vulnerable to these attacks. The President’s Executive Order is an important step in our effort to better protect our nation’s cyber networks. I am encouraged by the White House’s inclusive approach to this complex issue and by its outreach to industry and other stakeholders. The voluntary framework and information sharing improvements developed under this issuance are vital components of ensuring the security and resiliency of our critical infrastructure and I commend the Administration for using existing authorities in our ongoing fight against this growing threat. That being said, more action is needed to address cybersecurity and I still believe that legislation offers the best long-term solution. That’s why I am committed to continuing to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, the Administration and stakeholders to build on this Executive Order to pass comprehensive cybersecurity legislation as soon as possible.”

**Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (RI), Chair of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism**

“Today’s Executive Order, which focuses on risk-based standards and harnesses private-sector expertise, is an important step toward enhancing the cybersecurity of our nation’s critical infrastructure. Congress now must build on this order, filling in any gaps that require legislative action.”

**Representative Bennie G. Thompson (MS), Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security**

“With the President’s signing of this executive order, the Administration has built a framework to foster an effective partnership between our government and the private sector to ensure that the critical infrastructure that keeps our citizens safe and secure is properly shielded from malicious cyber activity. Though we all recognize that legislation will still be required to provide the strongest mechanisms for securing critical infrastructure, I commend President Obama for taking this important step towards improving our nation’s cybersecurity. The next step must be a legislative solution from Congress, and I urge the leaders in the House to act on this as soon as possible.”

**Representative Jim Langevin (RI), Co-Chair of the Congressional Cybersecurity Caucus**

“I commend the Administration for issuing this Executive Order, which strengthens our ability to respond to the most serious cyber threats, most especially those facing our critical infrastructure. I particularly applaud the move towards a robust cyber threat information sharing program and a basic framework to protect critical infrastructure. After the failure of comprehensive cybersecurity legislation last year, the need for immediate executive action was clearly apparent and I applaud the Administration for taking on this difficult task. However, executive action alone cannot accomplish all that is necessary to secure our most vulnerable and valuable public and private networks. I hope Congress will now be prompted to quickly consider and enact legislation that builds upon the Executive Order to make a significant, enduring, and comprehensive contribution to our nation’s cybersecurity.”