



Formerly The Foundation for Taxpayer & Consumer Rights

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November 17, 2008

Eric Schmidt
Chief Executive Officer
Google
1600 Ampitheatre Parkway
Mountain View, CA 94043
VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Mr. Schmidt,

Consumer Watchdog wrote to you over one month ago about the privacy problem with new Google services, but we have yet to receive a written response.

Tomorrow, you will address Washington lawmakers and opinion leaders about how technology can help restore trust in government. But you have not provided an answer to us about how the public can trust Google's technology when it poses so many privacy risks.

In our last letter (viewable at <http://www.consumerwatchdog.org/google>) we called on Google to adopt new anonymizing and security measures. We have added to the same website today a new video showing significant privacy problems with G-mail and the need for the company to stop reading emails from non-G-mail users. We reiterate our call for a simple anonymizing button across all Google services and add the request that G-mail operate via a Secure Sockets Layer as a default setting.

Recently Google urged Congressional staffers to use its new technology. (The presentation is online at http://services.google.com/ppt/Google101_HillStaff_public.ppt) Sensitive government data and communications should not be transmitted via Google's unsecure system nor should it be stored on Google's servers. If you want Capitol Hill to use Google's new products, Google needs to provide new security and anonymizing protections for those who seek it – in line with our previous demands.

A Consumer Watchdog spokesperson will be at your speech tomorrow to reiterate our call for new privacy protections at Google. We hope you will provide a clear and prompt answer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jamie".

Jamie Court

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Simpson".

John Simpson