

@TechFTC Twitter Chat Transcript

On August 30, 2012, Ed Felten hosted a Twitter chat from his [@TechFTC](#) Twitter account to discuss his time as the agency's first Chief Technologist. The chat was scheduled from 1:30-2:30pm and participants used the hashtag #TechFTC.

FTC Chairman Jon Leibowitz participated in the beginning of the chat, tweeting from the FTC's primary Twitter account [@FTC](#).

All tweets, without handles redacted, remain public on the FTC's Twitter accounts.

Tweets are posted in chronological order for ease of reading.

@TechFTC Tweets

Hi, this is Ed Felten, ready for questions. #TechFTC

Q1: [REDACTED] What is FTC doing abt brands opening FB pages as people?
<http://ow.ly/dIU6h> Do users comprehend privacy issues? #TechFTC

A1: Do u think practice is deceptive? If so, why? You can always file complaint to FTC if you think so: <http://www.ftc.gov/complaint> #TechFTC

Q2: [REDACTED] What is FTC doing to educate small/midsized businesses on data privacy laws? (And can I help?) #TechFTC

A2: We do small biz education, published privacy report, try to explain cases, meet with folks. Help is welcome. opa@ftc.gov #TechFTC

Q3: [REDACTED] Crowd funding why is small business not part of the conversation in the drafting of the rules? #TechFTC

A3: We r mainly enforcement agency rather than rulemaking. Often meet/talk w/ biz large&small. Comment periods when make rules. #TechFTC

Q4: [REDACTED] Rephrasing Q1 Brands not supposed to open FB pages as people but do & Facebook does nothing Why does FTC allow? #TechFTC

A4: If companies are deceiving people to sell stuff, we want to know. Chairman sitting next to me, will pass this along. #TechFTC

Q4: [REDACTED] Where is DNT at? Is this something FTC is capable of regulating under Section V authority? #TechFTC

Oops. Q5: ██████████ Where is DNT at? Is this something FTC is capable of regulating under Section V authority? #TechFTC

A5: Working hard on DNT. Lots of moving parts. No authority to regulate, but can enforce companies' promises to users. #TechFTC

Q6: @FTC (chairman) what has surprised u most about the FTC? #TechFTC

A6: Biggest surprise was ratio of workload to personnel. Huge mission, small agency. Impressed with professionalism of staff. #TechFTC

Q7: ██████████ What is FTC planning to do about hacking? #TechFTC

A7: Criminal prosecution of hackers by DoJ. We advise abt how 2 protect yrself, bring cases when companies fail to protect data. #TechFTC

Q8: ██████████ Is FTC concerned about norm of infrequent OS updates for Android phones in the markets? What should consumers do? #TechFTC

A8: We're aware of the issue. We normally advise folks to update when it's available; updates generally improve security. #TechFTC

Do y'all find the TechFTC blog useful? Suggestions for improvement? New Chief Tech Steve Bellovin will take it over. #TechFTC

Q9: @FTC (Chairman) R u going 2 continue to work on DoNotTrack? #TechFTC

A9: Yes, will keep working on DNT, stay member of W3C WG. When I return to Princeton, I'll do privacy research, publish results. #TechFTC

Will be interesting to go from privacy work in govt, to teaching privacy back at Princeton. Have learned a lot in time at FTC. #TechFTC

Q10: ██████████ Why is the boss on the small computer? #TechFTC

A10: LOL. He just stopped by for a minute at beginning of the chat. JDL is all about empowering the staff. #TechFTC

Q11: ██████████ I'm concerned #privacy legislation is far too focused on [#DNT](#), [#mobile](#) etc, any chance of omnibus laws? #TechFTC

A11: That's up to Congress. @FTC endorsed general privacy legislation in principle. <http://go.usa.gov/rUYm> #TechFTC

Q12: [REDACTED] If leg / reg continues to focus on bits of tech, new tech will simply come along and render former obsolete. #TechFTC

A12: I agree that leg/reg shouldn't be too tech-specific. Better to focus on principles, understand what problem is being solved. #TechFTC

Any final questions before I go? #TechFTC

Thanks everybody. Am passing the @TechFTC baton to new Chief Tech Steve Bellovin. It will be in good hands. #TechFTC

After I leave, you can find me at @EdFelten, blogging at <http://freedom-to-tinker.com>
#TechFTC

@FTC Tweets

Our Twitter Chat w/ @TechFTC has started! Send ur questions 2 Ed Felten using hashtag #TechFTC. More info on chats: <http://go.usa.gov/rRwP>

Jon Leibowitz joining ur chat. Ed, you've been a spectacular Chief Technologist for the FTC. On behalf of all of us, a big thanks! #TechFTC

But 2 quick questions: what has surprised u most about the FTC? and R u going 2 continue to work on DoNotTrack? #TechFTC

PICTURE: FTC Chairman Jon Leibowitz & @TechFTC's Ed Felten during #TechFTC Twitter Chat.
pic.twitter.com/yXRdJyhE

Hi all. If you have #tech questions for our Chief Technologist Ed Felten, tweet them to #TechFTC. He'll answer for another 15 mins! #privacy

We hope you enjoyed our #TechFTC Twitter Chat earlier w/ @TechFTC. If there's other staff you'd like to chat with in future, let us know!