

Internet Security Research Group (ISRG)

Legal Transparency Report

Reporting period: July 2024 - December 2024

Published: 1 April 2025

Description and scope

The trust of our users is ISRG's most critical asset. Transparency regarding legal requests from governments, law enforcement, and other agencies is an important part of making sure our users can trust us. To that end, we publish a transparency report twice annually. Reports are published three months after the period covered in order to allow us time to research all requests and orders received during the period.

ISRG discloses information solely in accordance with our [Privacy Policy](#), relevant terms of service, and applicable law.

ISRG opposes the introduction of a back door, specialized law enforcement or government access, or any other deliberate weakness in any of our systems. As of the date of this report, we have never received a request or demand of any kind, formal or informal, from any government agency anywhere in the world, that ISRG include a back door, specialized access, or any other deliberate weakness. If we were to receive such a request, we would oppose it with all the legal and technical tools available to us.

Count of Legal Request Types

The table below catalogs all of the legal requests we received during this report's reporting period:

| Type | Number |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Administrative subpoena | 1 |
| Civil subpoena | 0 |
| Court order (not including MLAT) | 4 |
| Criminal subpoena | 24 |
| MLAT | 0 |
| National security process | 0 |
| Other | 0 |
| Preservation request | 3 |
| PRTT order | 0 |
| Search warrant | 0 |
| Voluntary action | 0 |
| Wiretap order | 0 |

Historically, the vast majority of legal requests that ISRG receives relate to ISRG's [Let's Encrypt](#) certificate authority. During this particular reporting period, all legal requests related to Let's Encrypt.

Legal Request Type Explanations

Following is the current list of request types we track, with a brief definition of each (hat tip to Cloudflare's transparency report for their comprehensive list of request types):

Criminal Subpoena. U.S. legal process regarding a criminal investigation, including grand jury subpoenas, U.S. government attorney-issued subpoenas, and case agent-issued summonses.

Administrative Subpoena. Subpoenas issued directly by a U.S. government agency without judicial oversight (e.g., those issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Federal Trade Commission).

Civil Subpoena. Subpoenas for subscriber information that are received from civil litigants, such as subpoenas issued pursuant to the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA).

Court Order (not including MLAT). Any order issued by a judge or magistrate, including but not limited to 18 U.S.C. § 2703(d) (used to request, for example, account logs and most transactional records) and 18 U.S.C. § 2705(b) (nondisclosure orders). Orders that may fall under a more specific category such as search warrants or pen register / trap and trace orders will be reported under the more specific category and not counted here.

Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT). Our reporting on court orders above includes orders requested by non-U.S. governments through the MLAT process. To provide additional granularity on MLAT requests, we have also identified those court orders clearly identified to be requested from a foreign government through the MLAT process.

Pen Register/Trap and Trace (PRTT) Order. Pen register/trap and trace orders issued by the court for real-time disclosure of non-content information, including IP address information.

National Security Process. What we can say about either FISA court orders or NSL that we receive is highly regulated, and depends on exactly how we report the information. Current guidelines on reporting, codified as part of the USA FREEDOM Act, allow companies to disclose the combined number of NSLs and both content and non-content FISA orders as a single number in bands of 250, starting with 0-249.

Search Warrant. Search warrants that require judicial review, probable cause, and inclusion of a location to be searched and a detail of items requested.

Wiretap Order. Wiretap orders that were issued by a court having jurisdiction.

Preservation Request. A formal demand from a law enforcement agency to an organization or individual to retain specific data or records that may be relevant to a legal investigation.

Voluntary Action. Disclosures that ISRG makes voluntarily to a government, not compelled by a government or court order.

Other. For everything else.

Revision History

As of the 3 October 2024 report, we have revised our list of types of legal requests. This revision accomplishes two goals: (1) the list is more clear and concise through the elimination of some level of unnecessary detail; and (2) the list is more consistent with transparency reports published by others in the technology industry.