

FTC looking into digital copier security risks

5/24/2010

The Federal Trade Commission is reviewing its educational materials regarding data security risks arising from digital copiers that retain sensitive data on hard drives, FTC Commissioner Jon Leibowitz told Rep. Ed Markey, D-Mass., recently.

Markey, having seen CBS' news report about the machines ([see story](#)), in late April asked the FTC what it was doing to address these risks. According to Leibowitz, the FTC is "reaching out to copier manufacturers, resellers and retail copy and office supply stores to ensure that they are aware of the privacy risks . . . and to determine whether they are warning their customers."

FTC is focusing on education for now. For its own part, Leibowitz said, the FTC acquires ownership of the hard drives in digital copiers it leases and erases and destroys the drives when the copiers are returned.

Markey suggested that the FTC provide consumers with information about privacy risks associated with the copiers. Leibowitz said its current education materials encourage consumers to wipe computer drives clean or destroy them before disposing of the machines and suggests similar steps in materials for businesses but said it would be expanded.

"We will provide additional guidance to both consumers and businesses specifically addressing how to protect personal information that may be stored on hard drives of digital copiers and other devices," he wrote.

Markey is a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Source: [NAFCU News](#)