

US lawmakers raise Google Glass privacy concerns

May 17 2013



A visitor to the "NEXT Berlin" conference tries out Google Glass on April 24, 2013 in Berlin. A group of US lawmakers has asked Google to answer questions on the privacy implications and possible "misuse of information" of its Google Glass project.

A group of US lawmakers has asked Google to answer questions on the privacy implications and possible "misuse of information" of its Google

Glass project.

Eight [lawmakers](#) in the Congressional Privacy Caucus sent a letter Thursday saying they are "curious whether this new technology could infringe on the privacy of the average American."

The lawmakers asked Google to provide information about how it would collect and use data from the Internet-linked eyewear, which has been tested by a small group of users and is expected to hit the market later this year.

Caucus chair Joe Barton said in a statement the lawmakers "are concerned about possible misuse of information gathered by Google Glass."

"When using Google Glass, is it true that this product would be able to use [facial recognition technology](#) to unveil personal information about whomever and even some inanimate objects that the user is viewing?" the letter asked.

"Would a user be able to request such information? Can a non-user or human subject opt out of this collection of [personal data](#)? If so, how? If not, why not?"

The lawmakers also asked whether Google Glass has the capacity to store any data, if it will have user authentication and whether any [privacy protections](#) for non-users would be in place.

Google has faced privacy investigations on both sides of the Atlantic. European officials are pressing the [Internet giant](#) on data protection and privacy.

In the US, Google has been fined for collecting people's personal data

without authorization as it combed neighborhoods for its Street View service.

Glass connects to the Internet using Wi-Fi hot spots or, more typically, by being wirelessly tethered to mobile phones. Pictures or video are shared through the Google Plus social network.

[Google](#) co-founder and chief Larry Page depicted Glass this week as part of an ongoing effort to get computers "out of the way" so people can focus on lives enriched by what the Internet has to offer.

The letter was signed by Barton and Representatives John Barrow, Steve Chabot, Henry Johnson, Walter Jones, Richard Nugent, Bobby Rush and Loretta Sanchez.

© 2013 AFP

Citation: US lawmakers raise Google Glass privacy concerns (2013, May 17) retrieved 20 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2013-05-lawmakers-google-glass-privacy.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--