

Brazil weighs giving email same protection as mail

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Brazil's communications minister is proposing giving emails the same level of legal protection afforded to letters sent by mail.

Paulo Bernardo Silva says a measure that would criminalize reading someone else's email is to be included in a proposal regulating the use of civilian computers in Brazil, which is being debated in Congress.

Silva made the announcement in remarks before Congress Wednesday, according to a ministry statement.

The announcement comes on the heels of revelations that the U.S. National Security Agency's controversial [surveillance programs](#) have targeted Brazil. Rio de Janeiro's O Globo newspaper reported last month that the country is the NSA's top target in Latin America.

Foreign Minister Antonio Patriota expressed concerns about the issue during a meeting earlier this week with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry.

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