

## Federal Bureau of Investigation wants iPhone fight to be settled

Oliverio Pedraza

February 29, 2016

Julian Sanchez of the libertarian Cato Institute says in a <u>blog post</u> the case is "a fight over the future of high-tech surveillance, the trust infrastructure undergirding the global software ecosystem, and how far technology companies and software developers can be conscripted as unwilling suppliers of hacking tools for governments".

In the statement, Sewell defended Apple's cooperation with the <u>FBI</u> in the San Bernardino investigation, noting the company made engineers available to advise them on "additional investigative options". Meanwhile, 51 percent of the participants say Apple company should unlock phone to help FBI investigation.

Apple says there is no way that they will create a way to break the encryption on their iPhones.

"Apple strongly <u>supports</u>, and will continue to support, the efforts of law enforcement in pursuing justice against terrorists and other criminals - just as it has in this case and others". "Hackers and cyber criminals could use this to wreak havoc on our privacy and personal safety".

"The particular legal issue is actually quite narrow". The <u>Justice Department</u> is already seeking similar requests in other cases. Does it have other avenues and tools it could use to unlock the device without engaging in a legal slugfest with Apple, one it could end up losing anyway?

These issues are so important they should not be left to judicial interpretation, Apple's supporters argue.

Apple has also argued it creates a risky precedent where law enforcement agencies line up with orders forcing companies to bypass security measures so they can access encrypted data.

"There are probably 50 different ideas we have all sent to Apple", Jonathan Zdziarski, an iOS-based digital forensics and security expert, <u>said</u> in the article. On Thursday, Comey said the idea that the software could get "out in the wild" was not a legitimate concern. "We're all in agreement: Terrorism is bad".

The FBI wants a public debate about the issues of encryption and security, Comey added.

For him, the problem is hard to solve but the argument for privacy should prevail.

Today it's the phone from San Bernardino, he said.

The government is asking for the creation of software that doesn't exist, an abuse of the law and violation of the company's constitutional rights, Apple says.

"All told, I would estimate that the process of designing, creating, validating, deploying GovtOS would take two to four weeks", Apple's manager of user privacy, Erik Neuenschwander, declared in a court papers. "This is a stunning overreach of the FBI to demand that a private company create a new operating system with a "swinging door" that the federal government can enter and exit without any rules whatsoever, whenever they wish".

According to Reuters, Apple also maintains that it can not be subjected to the All Writs Act of 1789 because it is not a utility. "The All Writs Act does not allow the government to compel a manufacturer's assistance merely because it has placed a good into the stream of commerce", they wrote in their appeal. It's a violation of the First Amendment to force speech, the company's lawyers argue.

Apple and the United States government are squaring off in an epic legal battle with wideranging implications for how technology firms must work with law enforcement.

"Here, by contrast, the government has failed to demonstrate that the requested order was absolutely necessary to effectuate the search warrant, including that it exhausted all other avenues for recovering information", the motion filed by Apple reads.

A hearing is scheduled for next month. The losing party will have the option to appeal the ruling.

The day's events were among the most active yet in a case set in <u>motion</u> last week by Magistrate Judge Sheri Pym of the Federal District Court for the Central District of California.