

Cyber Law 406 Writing Assignment:

Name: Raekwon Jackson

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To: Governor Tar-Míriel

From: Raekwon Jackson

Subject: Cyber Law

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For starters, in order to give the citizens of Númenor the respect that they not only are requesting but really should be entitled to, it is vitally important for us to truly understand what privacy is and why it is critically important for Númenoreans to have it for better quality of life. According to Merriam Webster dictionary, privacy is “the quality or state of being apart from company or observation” or “freedom from unauthorized intrusion”. The main complaint coming from the citizens of Númenor is that their personal information/data is being taken and exploited for corporations for a variety of reasons without proper consent from the people that own it. According to the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation), “personal data is any information which is related to an identified or identifiable natural person”, and as I believe this would be the case with most people, I for one don’t want my personal information being accessed and used for financial gain against my will. Without proper protection of personal information/data corporations can legally take people’s personal information and sell it and or use it to target and track people without any regulation once so ever. This of course means that those individuals that have gotten their information taken without notice or consent can become forcibly and involuntarily involved in a lot of things that they did not plan to be, or do not want to be involved in, potentially things that can have severely negative consequences for them which in turn is a bad reflection on Númenor as whole.

Another complaint issued by Númenoreans is that they believe their Biometric data as well as their Personal Identifiable Information (PII) is being collected and exploited. According to the GDPR, “biometric data means personal data resulting from specific technical processing relating to the physical, physiological or behavioral characteristics of a natural person, which allow or confirm the unique identification of that natural person”. Some examples of biometric data are fingerprints, facial images, iris screening, etc. On the contrary, PII, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, is. Any representation of information that permits the identity of an individual to whom the information applies to be reasonably inferred by either direct or indirect means. Some

examples of this are addresses, phone numbers, Social Security number, email address, etc.

The GDPR as I previously mentioned, stands for General Data Protection Regulation. It is currently one of if not the most advanced and strongest privacy and security legislation phenomenon in the world. Its origin is founded in the European Union (EU) and started to get administered on May 25, 2018. Though it does technically cover all citizens within the EU it affects all corporations that decide to conduct business within that area of the world that the GDPR covers. Ultimately the GDPR bases their operations on seven main principles, the first being Lawfulness, fairness and transparency, the second being Purpose limitation, the third being Data minimization, the fourth being Accuracy, the fifth being Storage limitation, the sixth being, Integrity and confidentiality, and finally, the seventh being Accountability.

Though there are not a lot of states currently within the U.S. have made it a priority to address privacy concerns, Virginia is one of the few states that have actually tried to do so. The most pronounced legislature that has been done from the commonwealth is the Consumer Data Protection Act which, “establishes a framework for controlling and processing personal data in the Commonwealth. The bill applies to all persons that conduct business in the Commonwealth and either” In addition to the commonwealth of Virginia there are several other states that have also made an effort to address the lack of privacy within the country, California, Utah, and Connecticut.

Being that you are the Governor of Númenor and therefore already possess significant political influence I believe it would be in your best interest to go ahead and press to have Númenor enact a personal information/data protection law. I believe this to be the best available option at this time because it will enable you to make a large positive impact on the state in a shorter period of time than it would be if you were to attempt to get the federal government to do this for you. There are a lot more factors that go into getting legislation passed at a federal level as a result of it being a lot more intricate and having a lot of more powerful political figures that have varying ideals and opinions, most of which would be safe to assume are contradictory to your own. As a result of this, this is going to mean it is going to take a lot more time if you are even successful at all in getting the federal government to shift in your favor. Needless to say, whilst it is taking all that time your citizens will have to continue to endure the wrong doings being done to them which makes you look all the worse, in which you certainly cannot afford ahead of re-election in November.

References:

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