

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503  
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**TESTIMONY OF TONY SCOTT  
UNITED STATES CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM  
SUBCOMMITTEES ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND NATIONAL SECURITY  
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**May 13, 2016**

Chairman Meadows, Ranking Member Connolly, Chairman DeSantis, Ranking Member Lynch, and Members of the Subcommittees, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to speak about the important issue of incorporating social media in the Federal government's background investigation process.

**Use of Social Media in Background Investigations**

The Administration recognizes the importance of gathering accurate, up-to-date, and relevant information in its background investigations. That information is necessary to make important decisions about eligibility for Federal or contractor employment and a security clearance.

As technology evolves and our economy becomes more digitally connected, we are cognizant that the sources from whom we obtain relevant information must change over time and that the government must constantly seek to improve its background investigation methods and processes to leverage those advances.

**What the Administration Has Done**

Since 2009, various government agencies – including the Department of Defense and elements of the Intelligence Community – have conducted pilots and studies of the feasibility, effectiveness, and efficiency of collecting publicly available social media information as part of the background investigations process. Those pilots have informed the development of a new social media policy that will be issued by the Director of National Intelligence in his role as the Security Executive Agent.

And as you know, OMB chairs the interagency Security and Suitability Performance Accountability Council or “PAC” to ensure there is coordination on such reforms. The policy will reflect, I believe, an appropriate balance of a number of considerations, such as:

- protecting national security;
- the privacy of, and fairness to, the individuals seeking security clearances *and* associates of that individual;
- the veracity of the information collected from social media, and whether social media information was unique, or had already been collected from existing sources; and
- the capacity of and the cost to agencies and the security clearance process to accommodate collecting and adjudicating relevant information.

I will defer on the details to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) as the Security Executive Agent issuing the policy. As it is implemented, the Administration will continue to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the policy.

## **Conclusion**

There is no question that we must keep pace with technological advancements to anticipate, detect, and counter external and internal threats to the federal government's personnel, property and information. This need must also be considered with the full legal and national security implications. I am confident that the policy the Security Executive Agent is about to issue will strike the correct balance between all these considerations. I thank the Committee for holding this hearing, and for your commitment to improving this process. We look forward to working with Congress and I am pleased to answer any questions you may have.

**Tony Scott, U.S. Chief Information Officer  
Office of Management and Budget**

Tony Scott is the third Chief Information Officer of the United States, appointed by President Obama on February 5th, 2015. Prior to his position in the White House, Mr. Scott led the global information technology group at VMware Inc., a position he had held since 2013. Prior to joining VMware Inc., Mr. Scott served as Chief Information Officer (CIO) at Microsoft from 2008 to 2013. Previously, he was the CIO at The Walt Disney Company from 2005 to 2008. From 1999 to 2005, Mr. Scott served as the Chief Technology Officer of Information Systems & Services at General Motors Corporation. He received a B.A. from the University of San Francisco and a J.D. from Santa Clara University.

