Digital Clearinghouse Roundtable

The Digital Citizen and Consumer Working Group (DCCWG)

7 December 2020
The role of the DCCWG

• The Digital Citizen and Consumer Working Group (DCCWG) was established in 2017 via a resolution passed at the International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners (now GPA).

• The role of the DCCWG is to study the intersections between privacy/data protection, and consumer protection/competition, and to promote cross-regulatory cooperation between these regulatory spheres.

• In 2019 the DCCWG’s mandate was adjusted to focus on the intersection between privacy and anti-trust.
DCCWG Forward Plan 2020-21

The Forward Work Plan identifies the following 4 work streams:

1. Privacy and Anti-Trust “Deep Dive” – exploring the complements and tensions between the objectives of Privacy protection and Anti-Trust

2. Sensitization of other forums – engaging key cross–regulatory partners and audiences on the reality, challenges and opportunities of regulatory intersections

3. Tracking and Encouraging Cross-Regulatory Collaboration, and

4. Contribution to a chapter in the GPA Enforcement Collaboration Handbook – cooperation strategies not only within the Privacy world but across intersecting regulatory regimes
The Deep Dive

- The objective is to further our understanding of the compliments and tensions created by the intersection of the privacy and competition regulatory spheres

- Will produce a final report informed by Competition/Anti-trust Regulator Interviews and an academic review

- All DCCWG members working to facilitate regulator interviews
Preliminary Findings & Takeaways

• The intersection isn’t new but is becoming more pronounced

• We’re speaking different languages

• Privacy as a non-price factor
  • Lessening of privacy does not always result in a lessening of competition
  • It is not an easy concept for regulators to quantify or measure
  • It is complicated by differing consumer preferences
Preliminary Findings & Takeaways (con’t)

• Privacy problems are not always competition problems and vice-versa
  • Remedies for one can sometimes be at odds with the other
  • The challenge lies in finding a balance between privacy and competition without sacrificing either

• What to expect in the future
  • Automating anti-competitive conduct
  • Technological obstacles and solutions
  • Potential for additional/enhanced collaboration
Thank you!

• Questions or comments?