Digital Anonymity for Whistleblowing

Or… pushing forward Tor and digital anonymity “legally required” and often “institutional” uses

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Many Use Cases

• We all know about Digital Whistleblowing used by Media and Investigative Journalism Group but there are also

• Civil Rights Activism in a broader sense
  
  • Anticorruption and Transparency NGOs
  
  • Whistleblowing Policy Activism and Pro-bono Assistance Hotlines

• “Legal Compliance” with ethics-integrity standards

  • Public Agencies (Government) - Anticorruption
  
  • Large Corporations - Many legal compliance laws
Digital Anonymity
In the legal practice?

• Bringing Tor uses to a wider audience specifically to comply the law (es: anticorruption, anti-fraud, anti-discriminatory practice, anti-environmental damage)

• Difficulties in pushing forward for institutional uses of Tor Onion Services is not always an easy task for

  • Compliance Laws does not often require Anonymity

  • New “ISO 37001:2016 Anti-bribery management systems” standard and other best practices recommend that Anonymous Whistleblowing should not be encouraged but Anonymous Submissions should be considered and not discarded
    Introduce Digital Anonymity requirements into the law, procedures, regulations and best practices.

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Anonymity what?

- “analog people” think anonymity is an “anonymous paper letter being received”
- “Always explain Anonymity” vs “Technical Anonymity”
- New threat models and scenarios can come up for low risk
  - Confidential Submission
  - Anonymous Submission
  - Maximum Security (Tor)
Barcelona
A success on Tor Advocacy
In Spain

- Xnet launched a campaign on the successful anticorruption initiative by Ajuntament de Barcelona bringing political achievement:
  - OpenSource Source use (GlobaLeaks)
  - Tor Digital Anonymity used by the government for a valuable purpose (anticorruption)
- [https://xnet-x.net/en/whistleblowing-platform-barcelona-city-council/](https://xnet-x.net/en/whistleblowing-platform-barcelona-city-council/)
Legitimizing Digital Anonymity with Whistleblowing

- Tor used by
  - Transparency Activists and Anticorruption
  - Government in Public Agencies to fight corruption
  - Corporations to fight non-ethical, discriminatory and illegal practices happening from inside the organisations
- We need more use cases of Tor
Open Conversation

- What to do next?

- Where and how to foster uses of Digital Anonymity with Whistleblowing?
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