THE VALUE OF U.S. PERSON QUERIES INTO FISA SECTION 702

Using a U.S. person query term helps analysts quickly find critical information.

WHAT IS A QUERY?

Analysts conduct "queries" using key words to find relevant foreign intelligence, much in the way a word or phrase could be used to find a particular email message in an inbox.

WHAT IS A U.S. PERSON QUERY TERM?

At times, analysts use a query term — like an email address, phone number or company name — associated with a U.S. person to find relevant foreign intelligence within FISA Section 702 data. **Queries do not acquire any new information.**

WHO IS A U.S. PERSON?

A citizen of the U.S.

An alien admitted for permanent residence in the U.S.

An unincorporated association with a substantial number of members who are U.S. citizens and/or legal permanent aliens.

A corporation that is legally formed in the U.S.

EXAMPLES OF VALUE

To be timely and relevant, these U.S. Person queries must be conducted quickly when a threat has been identified.

PROTECTING CRITICAL U.S. GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

U.S. person queries associated with U.S. Government infrastructure were critical to preventing cyber attacks and holding malicious cyber actors accountable.

EXPOSING TERRORIST PLOTS

U.S. person queries identified international terrorist threats to U.S. persons and the homeland. They helped disrupt terrorist plots and exposed terrorist recruiting efforts.

DETERMINING IF U.S. PERSONS OR COMPANIES ARE BEING TARGETED

U.S. person queries helped identify hostile foreign intelligence services and malicious foreign cyber actors who were targeting U.S. persons and U.S. companies. FBI provided warnings to these victims.

SAFEGUARDS TO PROTECT U.S. PERSON PRIVACY

- Access Controls
- Age Off Requirements
- Dissemination Restrictions
- Use Restrictions
- Query Restrictions
- Masking Requirements
- Congressional and Judicial Oversight