

Australian Police could access US cloud data under new CLOUD Act - blueAPACHE

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Details:

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As part of the new CLOUD Act, The Turnbull government is working towards a deal with Washington's Trump Administration which would allow Australian police to quickly access a suspected criminal's data with a warrant which can taken directly to US cloud providers and tech companies such as Microsoft, Google, and Amazon. This agreement could help Australian authorities around challenges of accessing encrypted communications and allow each country's law enforcement agencies to easily access data stored in computer "clouds" of both countries. "Timely access to electronic data held by communications service providers is an essential component of government efforts to protect public safety and combat serious crime, including terrorism, child sex offences, and organised crime," says Angus Taylor, Australia's Law Enforcement and Cyber Security Minister. Fairfax Media understands Mr. Taylor will visit the US in the next fortnight and express Australia's eagerness to strike an agreement as soon as possible, to help Australian authorities get around the problem of accessing encrypted communications. US firms have traditionally rejected Australian police requests for data from cloud companies due to legal complications in the US regarding warrants for data. Mr Taylor said the CLOUD Act would improve the efficiency of law enforcement access to data where in the past processes could be difficult.

"Those efforts are impeded when access to important data held on servers overseas is slowed down by cumbersome processes not suited for fast-advancing communication environments, significantly delaying the investigation and prosecution of serious crimes."

Some rights groups such as Amnesty International and the American Civil Liberties Union have criticised the US law on grounds that governments should not scrutinise requests for data in their own countries, but rather be up to the cloud providers to challenge any authorization requests.

What is the CLOUD Act, as discussed in this blueAPACHE article?

The CLOUD Act is a new agreement being pursued between the Turnbull government and Washington's Trump Administration that would allow Australian police to quickly access a suspected criminal's data with a warrant taken directly to US cloud providers and tech companies such as Microsoft, Google, and Amazon.

Who is Angus Taylor and what did he say about the CLOUD Act?

Angus Taylor is Australia's Law Enforcement and Cyber Security Minister. He said, "Timely access to electronic data held by communications service providers is an essential component of government efforts to protect public safety and combat serious crime, including terrorism, child sex offences, and organised crime."

What problem is the CLOUD Act intended to help solve for Australian authorities?

The CLOUD Act could help Australian authorities get around challenges of accessing encrypted communications and allow each country's law enforcement agencies to easily access data stored in computer 'clouds' of both countries.

Why have US firms traditionally rejected Australian police requests for cloud data?

US firms have traditionally rejected Australian police requests for data from cloud companies due to legal complications in the US regarding warrants for data.

What did Angus Taylor say about delays caused by current data access processes?

Angus Taylor said, "Those efforts are impeded when access to important data held on servers overseas is slowed down by cumbersome processes not suited for fast-advancing communication environments, significantly delaying the investigation and prosecution of serious crimes."

What trip did Angus Taylor plan to make regarding the CLOUD Act agreement?

Fairfax Media understood that Angus Taylor would visit the US in the next fortnight to express Australia's eagerness to strike an agreement as soon as possible, to help Australian authorities get around the problem of accessing encrypted communications.

Which US tech companies are named as potential targets of Australian police data requests under the CLOUD Act?

Microsoft, Google, and Amazon as US cloud providers and tech companies that Australian police could approach directly with a warrant under the CLOUD Act.