

1 CINDY COHN (SBN 145997)
 cindy@eff.org
 2 LEE TIEN (SBN 148216)
 3 KURT OPSAHL (SBN 191303)
 MATTHEW ZIMMERMAN (SBN 212423)
 4 MARK RUMOLD (SBN 279060)
 DAVID GREENE (SBN 160107)
 5 JAMES S. TYRE (SBN 083117)
 ELECTRONIC FRONTIER FOUNDATION
 6 815 Eddy Street
 San Francisco, CA 94109
 7 Tel.: (415) 436-9333; Fax: (415) 436-9993
 8 THOMAS E. MOORE III (SBN 115107)
 tmoore@rroyselaw.com
 9 ROYSE LAW FIRM, PC
 10 1717 Embarcadero Road
 Palo Alto, CA 94303
 11 Tel.: 650-813-9700; Fax: 650-813-9777
 12 Attorneys for Plaintiffs

RACHAEL E. MENY (SBN 178514)
 rmeny@kvn.com
 MICHAEL S. KWUN (SBN 198945)
 BENJAMIN W. BERKOWITZ (SBN 244441)
 KEKER & VAN NEST, LLP
 633 Battery Street
 San Francisco, California 94111
 Tel.: (415) 391-5400; Fax: (415) 397-7188
 RICHARD R. WIEBE (SBN 121156)
 wiebe@pacbell.net
 LAW OFFICE OF RICHARD R. WIEBE
 One California Street, Suite 900
 San Francisco, CA 94111
 Tel.: (415) 433-3200; Fax: (415) 433-6382
 ARAM ANTARAMIAN (SBN 239070)
 aram@eff.org
 LAW OFFICE OF ARAM ANTARAMIAN
 1714 Blake Street
 Berkeley, CA 94703
 Telephone: (510) 289-1626

14 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
 15 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
 16 **SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

17 FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF LOS
 18 ANGELES, *et al.*,
 19 Plaintiffs,
 20 v.
 21 NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY, *et al.*,
 22 Defendants.

Case No: 3:13-cv-03287 JSW

**DECLARATION OF JOHN
 SULLIVAN FOR FREE SOFTWARE
 FOUNDATION IN SUPPORT OF
 PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR
 PARTIAL SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

Date: February 7, 2014
 Time: 9:00 A.M.
 Hon. Jeffrey S. White
 Courtroom 11 - 19th Floor

1 I, JOHN SULLIVAN, hereby declare:

2 1. I am the Executive Director of the Free Software Foundation. The facts contained in
3 the following affidavit are known to me of my own personal knowledge and if called upon to testify,
4 I could and would competently do so.

5 2. Our organization helped pioneer a worldwide free software movement and provides
6 an umbrella of legal and technical infrastructure for collaborative software development
7 internationally. We advocate for the freedom, privacy, and autonomy of computer users, primarily
8 by making sure that the software running on their computers is fully under their control. Free “as in
9 freedom” software users choose their software on ethical grounds according to these concerns, the
10 same way many vegetarians reject meat or labor activists reject sweatshop clothing. Because free
11 software is developed collaboratively and often by grassroots communities, it is a force for social
12 change. Its developers are very aware of what corporate and government interests are being
13 challenged with their software.

14 3. The collection of our phone records by the government has resulted in (1) harassment,
15 membership withdrawal, and/or discouragement of new members, and (2) other consequences which
16 objectively suggest an impact on, or ‘chilling’ of, the members’ associational rights.

17 4. I say this because of the following facts:

18 a. Many of our supporters are software developers working on an operating
19 system to be used instead of Microsoft or Apple, called GNU/Linux. Unlike
20 those proprietary operating systems, all of the code for GNU/Linux is
21 publicly available for inspection and modification. A widespread motivation
22 for developing software this way is to make it very difficult for “backdoors”
23 such as those now known to be part of Microsoft Windows, to be introduced
24 by the government or corporations. Even though their work is legal, because
25 these developers know that their work may complicate government
26 surveillance efforts, they are concerned about being targeted. A key

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1 organizational function of the FSF is to serve as an important point of contact
2 and coordination between developers working on this project. If we cannot
3 promise the confidentiality of our communications, this category of our
4 supporters will think twice before associating with us or with other members
5 through us.

6 b. Other of our software developer members are working in areas that are
7 legally controversial. They work on free software to protect anonymity
8 online, or to circumvent technological protection measures in order to access
9 copyrighted works to which they have a legal right, or on encryption software
10 that, while legal, may be used by criminals as well. These members are even
11 more concerned about the privacy of their communications, living in fear that
12 their work may be misconstrued as illegal.

13 c. As one of our members has told us directly, “While I do work very openly in
14 my day to day life in free software, and I am quite clearly an outspoken
15 advocate of free software, and the free software movement, the fact private
16 communications may be turned over to the government would result in a sort
17 of chilling effect. For instance, I would be reluctant to ask the FSF questions
18 about the legal status of code with federal regulation, such as the implications
19 of distributing cryptographic software under the GNU GPL, or questions
20 regarding privacy software, such as Tor, for fear it may implicate me later,
21 when someone else misuses such software. It would place me in an awkward
22 situation, one where I cannot ask a question about software without being
23 lumped into a group which may misuse such software. If I have misgivings
24 about such things, as an open and outspoken free software contributor, I fear
25 what the pseudo-anonymous contributors to free software communities must
26 think.”

27 5. This chilling effect extends beyond our members who are software

1 developers, to members who are also just free software users and advocates. Many of our members,
2 when they joined, have cited our work to support software that respects their privacy and freedom
3 as a primary reason for their association. Any revelation that the records of the communications
4 with us are being collected discredits us as an organization capable of protecting the very interest
5 that motivated them to associate with us. As a concrete example, some of our supporters are
6 refusing to attend the annual member conference we host in the United States, explicitly because of
7 surveillance.

8 6. Finally, this chilling also affects our current staff and ability to hire new staff, who
9 accept relatively low pay rates in order to do a job they feel can make a positive difference in the
10 world. Knowing that doing this job puts them in the crosshairs of government surveillance is a
11 powerful deterrent that threatens to make working for us just not worth it. Anything that
12 complicates our ability to attract and retain quality staff directly undercuts our mission of building a
13 strong association of free software supporters.

14 7. Since the disclosure of the Associational Tracking Program, we have lost the ability
15 to assure our members and constituents, as well as all others who seek to communicate with us, that
16 the fact of their communications to and with us will be kept confidential.

17 8. Prior to the disclosure, we assured confidentiality to those who contacted us. But we
18 now know that those assurances were not true.

19 9. Moreover, the pattern of distortion and lawless conduct by the NSA, exacerbated by
20 the intense secrecy of its activities, have left us unable to reassure our members and associates that
21 additional forms of surveillance, as yet unconfirmed or actively denied by the government are not
22 also occurring, leaving us with no alternative forms of confidential communication. This is
23 extremely damaging for us, because the success of our movement depends concretely on the ability
24 for dispersed individuals to collaborate freely and openly.

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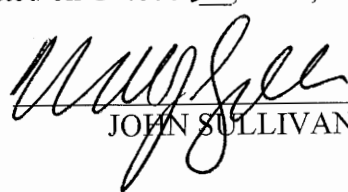
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I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on October __, 2013, at Boston, MA, 02110.

JOHN SULLIVAN

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I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on October 30, 2013, at Boston, MA, 02110.



JOHN SULLIVAN