



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

May 9, 2016

Dear [Carrier],

As you know, one of the Commission's top priorities is the promotion of safety and security of communications. This is a priority that is shared by our colleagues at the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

As our nation's consumers and businesses turn to mobile broadband to conduct ever more of their daily activities, from the most sensitive to the most trivial, the safety and security and their communications and other personal information is directly related to the security of the devices they use.

There have recently been a growing number of vulnerabilities associated with mobile operating systems that threaten the security and integrity of a user's device and all the personal, sensitive data on it. One of the most significant to date is a vulnerability in the Android component called "Stagefright." It may have the ability to affect close to 1 billion Android devices around the world. And there are many other vulnerabilities that could do just as much harm.

Consumers may be left unprotected, for long periods of time or even indefinitely, by any delays in patching vulnerabilities once they are discovered. Therefore, we appreciate efforts made by operating system providers, original equipment manufacturers, and mobile service providers to respond quickly to address vulnerabilities as they arise. We are concerned, however, that there are significant delays in delivering patches to actual devices—and that older devices may never be patched.

In partnership with the FTC, we have launched a joint effort to better understand, and ultimately to improve, the mobile security "ecosystem." The FCC is contacting the service provider community to better understand the role that they play in ensuring the security of mobile devices. The FTC is separately seeking information from operating system providers and original equipment manufacturers. We hope that the efforts of our two agencies will lead to a greater understanding of what is being done today to address mobile device vulnerabilities—and what can be done to improve mobile device consumer safety and security in the future.

As a first step, I request that you provide us with your detailed responses within forty-five (45) days of the date of this letter. If you request confidential treatment for your responses, your responses will be treated confidentially (see 47 CFR § 0.459(d)(3)) but please be aware that we intend to share all responses with the FTC, as we are permitted to do pursuant to 44 U.S.C. § 3510, and we ask that you state in your response, pursuant to 47 CFR § 0.442, that you do not oppose such disclosure.

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Once we receive your responses, we look forward to meeting with your representatives to review your answers and learn your perspectives on possible next steps.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Charles Mathias on my staff. Thank you in advance for help in this important undertaking.

Sincerely,

Jon Wilkins,
Chief
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Federal Communications Commission