



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

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

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



WHAT IS A QUERY?

Analysts conduct “queries” using terms to retrieve relevant lawfully acquired foreign intelligence of a non-U.S. person outside of the U.S., 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.

A query will only return information from the U.S. person query if either the U.S. person is in contact with a foreign intelligence target that met the standards OR the foreign intelligence target is talking about that U.S. person.

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 lawful permanent residents.



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

EXAMPLES OF VALUE

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



PROTECTING CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

U.S. person queries associated with 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 ARE BEING TARGETED BY FOREIGN POWERS

U.S. person queries helped FBI identify hostile foreign actors who were targeting U.S. persons and U.S. companies and provide warning to these victims.



SAFEGUARDS TO PROTECT U.S. PERSON PRIVACY

Controlled Access | Use Restrictions | Data Removal | Privacy Training | Query Restrictions | Robust Audits and Oversight | Congressional and Judicial Oversight | Sharing Limits | 100% Legal Review of Targeting and U.S. Person Queries