Tips for Talking to the Police

THE POLICE WANT TO SEARCH MY SERVER, MY PERSONAL COMPUTER, OR MY PHONE. WHAT DO I DO NOW?

Don't consent to a search.

- Say "No," and tell the police to come back with a warrant.
- If you voluntarily agree to a search, they don't need a warrant to enter your house or search your computer.

Ask to see a search warrant.

- If the police say they have a warrant, you have a right to see it.
- Make sure they are only searching the areas the warrant authorizes them to search.

You can stay silent.

- You don't have to say a word to the police or help their search.
- You don't have to give your encryption keys or passwords to the police.
- If you decide to talk to the police, tell them the truth—lying to the police is a crime.
- Once the police are searching your home or computer, don't interfere or obstruct their search.

Talk to a lawyer.

- If the police want to search your home, your business, or your electronic devices—or even just talk to you—you should talk to a lawyer before any search or discussion with the police, if possible.
- A lawyer can help you deal with the police, and may be able to help you get back any electronic devices the police took from you while searching.

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