



Coles College of Business

Department of Information Systems

# **Georgia Senate Bill 315**

**Or, why doing “good” may now bad**

KSU SysAdmin meeting

March 2018

# Overview

- History
- SB 315 overview
- Analysis
- Outcome
- What next?

# Disclaimer

- Everything in this talk is mine
  - Unless it's not...
- Not speaking for the university in any official capacity
- If you worked at the Elections Center...

# History

- In March 2017, voter registration data of ~6.7 million Georgia residents exposed via Drupal vulnerability on KSU Elections Center Website
- Data found by local security researchers, reported to KSU faculty member
- KSU faculty member verified the exposure, reported to KSU CISO

# History

- Elections Center website taken offline
- Ga. Secretary of State office notified
- Ga. Governor's office notified
- Governor requests FBI investigation for possible criminal activity

# History



# History

- KSU faculty member notifies his Dean and department chair when local TV breaks the news
- KSU faculty member retains criminal defense attorney and waits for FBI contact

# History



# History

- KSU faculty member is interviewed by FBI agents
- FBI closes investigation, no federal charges filed

# History



# SB 315 overview

- Bill initiated in the Senate, sponsored by Sen. Bruce Thompson and others
- Bill seeks to amend Title 16, Chapter 9, Article 6, Part 1 of Georgia Code, which relates to computer crimes
- Creates a new aggravated misdemeanor crime of “unauthorized access”

# SB 315 overview

- Bill written in direct response to Elections Center incident, per Senate committee testimony
- Sen. Thompson says bill makes Georgia “pro business” and “anti hacker”

# SB 315 overview



# SB 315 overview

- Bill has gone through multiple changes, and is different from how it began
- “Any person who intentionally accesses a computer or computer network with knowledge that such access is without authority shall be guilty of the crime of unauthorized computer access”

# SB 315 overview

- Previous language does not apply to:
  - “Persons who are members of the same household”
  - “Access to a computer or computer network for a legitimate business activity”
  - “Cybersecurity active defense measures that are designed to prevent or detect unauthorized computer access”
  - “Persons based upon violations of terms of service or user agreements”

# Analysis

- Terms of service violations
  - Addressed during consideration, language added
- Malicious or criminal intent
  - Not a factor. If you “do” it, you are guilty
- Academic or industry research exemption
  - Not addressed, no exemptions granted

# Analysis

- Household monitoring
  - Original language was present to restrict monitoring to parents of minor children
  - Language amended to widen the exemption
  - Concerns about monitoring in abusive households

# Analysis

- Several security and tech professionals have spoken out against the bill
- USG has not taken a public stance on the bill
- Will impact industry and academic research
- Will impact growing security sector in Ga.

# Outcome

- Slide deck constructed at 6:30pm on Thursday, 3/29/2018
  - Bill still in process
- UPDATE
  - House substitute bill approved by senate at ~11:30pm
  - <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/20172018/177608.pdf>

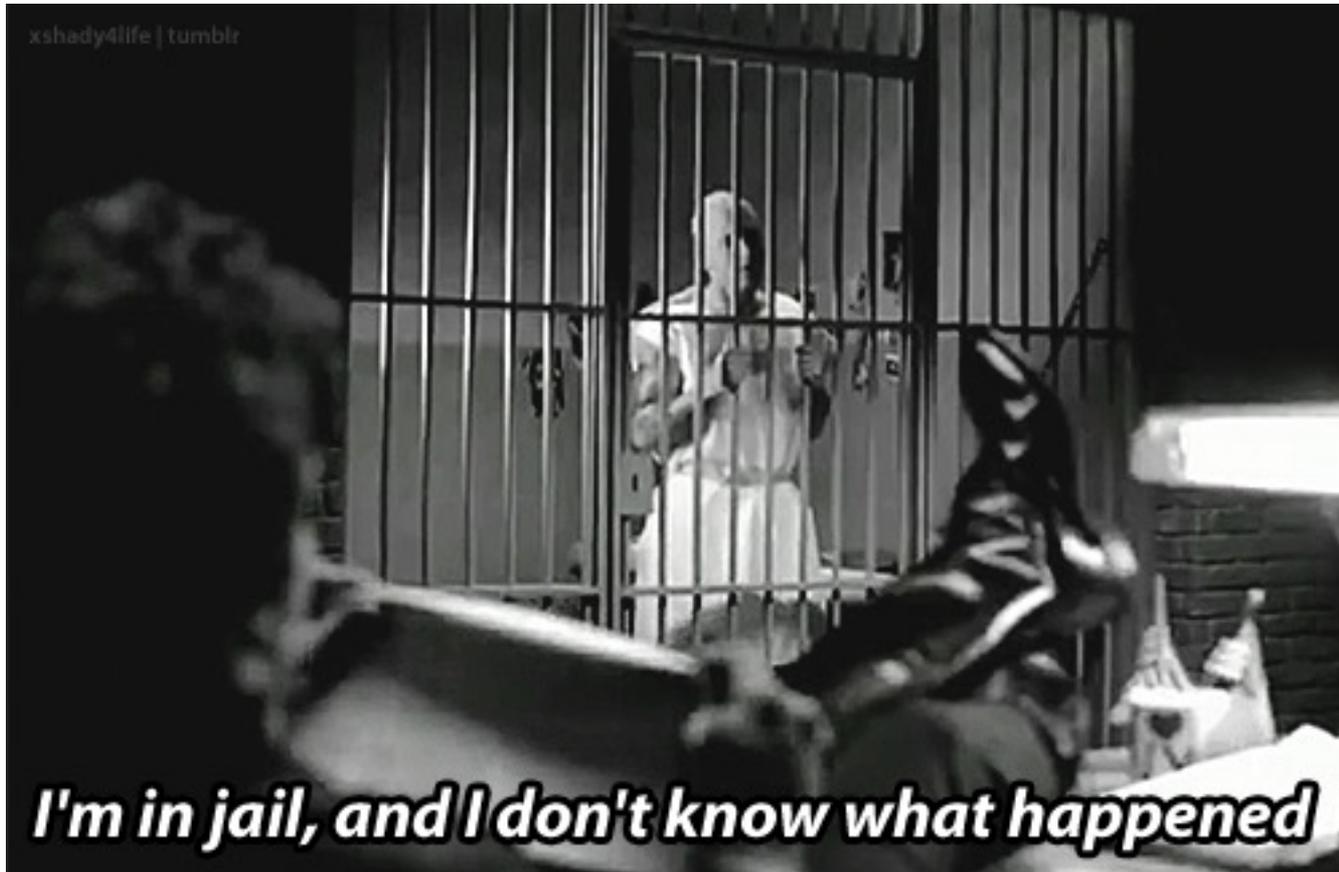
# Next steps

- ~~If fail~~

- ~~Reach out to bill sponsors to educate~~
- ~~Attempt to influence language in future legislation~~

- If pass

- Shamelessly lobby for veto via Twitter
- Change my research stream
- Start Go Fund Me account for attorney fees
- And...





# How to find me

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Have a KSU day!  
#hootyhoo