

April 21, 2015 10:13 AM

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[REDACTED] CFAA Reform Bill (Aaron's [Swartz] Law) to be Reintroduced

1 Attachment, 37 KB

All –

As reported by POLITICO this morning – the bill text is attached:

**AARON'S LAW REDUX –**

Reps. Zoe Lofgren and Jim Sensenbrenner in the House and Sen. Ron Wyden in the upper chamber will today reintroduce Aaron's Law, a bill that would soften the anti-hacking Computer Fraud and Abuse Act. White-hat hackers have expressed fears that the CFAA chills research, while civil liberty watchdogs have decried what they say is criminalization of ordinary Internet behavior and disproportionate penalties. The bill is of course named for activist Aaron Swartz, who committed suicide while facing CFAA charges that many in cybersecurity say was an over-zealous prosecution.

"It's time we reformed this law to better focus on truly malicious hackers and bad actors, and away from common computer and Internet activities," Lofgren said in a statement. The bill would replace controversial "exceeds authorized access" provisions and require knowing circumvention of computer or physical security measures for charges. It would also add provisions requiring a fair market valuation for stolen information of at least \$5,000 for some prosecutions. It would also prevent prosecutors from piling up prison time for defendants convicted on multiple CFAA counts. The measure of course runs the opposite direction of a White House and Justice Department proposal to beef up the bill, put forth earlier this year. Aaron's Law hasn't gone anywhere in past Congresses with Judiciary Committee chairs who aren't on the same page as the bill's advocates.

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