

# MARKLE FOUNDATION

## The Markle Task Force on National Security in the Information Age

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The terrorist attacks of September 11th and the dynamic threat of global terrorism prompted an introspective review of the failures of American intelligence and, especially, how information is shared and how government agencies collaborate.

Ensuring that the right people have the right information at the right time is an issue of critical importance to our national security.

In 2002, the Markle Foundation convened a bipartisan Task Force to examine national security in the information age. Since then, this diverse group has consulted with government officials, private industry, experts on technology and civil liberties, and foreign partners to find solutions for this critical information sharing and collaboration problem. Through a series of reports, the Markle Task Force has advocated for the creation of a trusted information sharing environment that achieves the twin goals of national security and civil liberties.

### LEGISLATIVE REFORMS

Government has taken many of our recommendations toward building such an environment. Important reforms through legislation, executive orders, and national strategies were adopted to facilitate the flow of information among the federal government, state and local agencies, the private sector, and foreign partners.

Although the Congress, President, and intelligence community have made progress, much still needs to be done. Significant cultural, institutional, and technological obstacles remain. There is reason to be concerned that the initial focus and momentum have dissipated, while confidence in the process and deliverables have decreased. To meet modern national security challenges, we must renew our commitment to

greater information sharing consistent with respect for privacy.

### THE WORK AHEAD

As the Task Force articulated in its three reports, an effective information sharing environment must be built on trust. The agencies of government must trust each other with sensitive information, and the American people must trust their government to protect their civil liberties and privacy. Realization of this trusted environment urgently requires:

- sustained leadership and strong oversight from all branches of government
- clear policies, processes and guidelines that facilitate collaboration and sharing of information while protecting civil liberties
- technologies that facilitate sharing while protecting security and privacy

Information sharing must not be a partisan issue; it goes to the core of good governance. To this end, the Markle Task Force continues to assess the government's progress and is preparing an assessment that will make constructive recommendations to give to the next President and to Congress that will help transform how government shares information and collaborates across agencies, with state and local governments, and with the private sector.

### LEARN MORE

Please visit us at [www.markletaskforce.org](http://www.markletaskforce.org) for more information and to obtain copies of the Markle Task Force reports and visualizations. You may also contact Danna Lindsay at [dlindsay@markle.org](mailto:dlindsay@markle.org) or call 212-713-7645.