

A Zuck-Created Nightmare: Facebook Engineers Admit They Have No Clue Where Your Personal Data Is Stored Or Which Spy Agencies Hoover It Up

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KENZO TRIBOUILLARD /Getty

[Lucas Nolan](#)

Recently unsealed court transcripts relating to a lawsuit over Facebook's mishandling of user data reveals that company engineers claim to have no idea what personal information they collect on users or where it's stored.

The Intercept [reports](#) that in March, two veteran Facebook engineers found themselves being questioned about the company's collection of user data in a hearing for the ongoing lawsuit over the company's alleged mishandling of private user information relating to the Cambridge Analytica scandal.



Mark Zuckerberg surrounded by guards (Chip Somodevilla /Getty)

A transcript of the hearing was recently unsealed and reveals that the engineers were questioned about what sort of user information Facebook stores and where it is located. The engineers' had a simple response — they don't know.

During a hearing with special master Daniel Garrie, a court-appointed subject-matter expert tasked with resolving a disclosure impasse, Garrie attempted to get the company to provide a definitive accounting of where Facebook user data might be stored across the company's 55 subsystems. Both Facebook engineers struggled to even guess where that information might be stored.

Garrie stated: "I'm just trying to understand at the most basic level from this list what we're looking at," to which Facebook engineering director Eugene Zarashaw responded: "I don't believe there's a single person that exists who could answer that question. It would take a significant team effort to even be able to answer that question."

When asked about how Facebook might track down all the data associated with a single user account, Zarashaw responded: "It would take multiple teams on the ad side to track down exactly the — where the data flows. I would be surprised if there's even a single person that can answer that narrow question conclusively."

When asked about this, a Facebook spokesperson simply told the Intercept: "We have made — and continue making — significant investments to meet our privacy commitments and obligations, including extensive data controls."

Read more at [the Intercept here](#).