

Electronic Device Search

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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*Protecting Rights and
Defending Freedom on the
Electronic Frontier*

More on this topic



<http://eff.org/press/archives/2011/06/27>