

October 19, 2026

The Honorable Nick Andersen
Acting Director
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
245 Murray Lane SW
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Thomas Flag
Deputy Federal Chief Information Officer
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Andersen and Mr. Flag:

I write to urge the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to protect web browsing information from surveillance by hackers and foreign adversaries. Specifically, your agencies should require that federal agencies and technology vendors adopt Encrypted Client Hello, an important encryption technology that protects information about websites that Americans visit.

Government websites nearly universally encrypt website data, protecting the contents of web pages from prying eyes. However, standard web encryption does not protect website names such as “reportfraud.ftc.gov.” As data travels across the internet, hackers and foreign actors monitoring network connections can easily see these exposed website names. This visibility could lead to malicious eavesdroppers identifying whistleblowers, profiling cleared federal personnel, tracking Americans seeking crisis support, and mapping interactions between agencies.

Encrypted Client Hello (ECH) is a cybersecurity technology that protects the name of the website visited by a user. It is particularly effective when used by major Content Delivery Networks (CDNs), which connect hundreds of thousands of different websites to the internet. When ECH is used on a website delivered by a CDN, anyone intercepting a user's web traffic can see which network is delivering the content, but cannot directly identify the specific site visited among the many websites hosted on the same CDN.

Today, many federal websites rely on CDNs but do not benefit from the protections of ECH. Attached is a non-exhaustive list of executive branch websites using CDN infrastructure without ECH protection. This list includes sensitive destinations such as law enforcement tip lines, whistleblower channels, national security personnel services, and a mental health crisis line. Consider the following two examples:

- The Department of Veterans Affairs operates an online suicide prevention hotline at veteranscrisisline.net. Amazon Web Services hosts the website, and while the website already uses encryption to protect the content delivered to visitors, metadata about the visit itself is not protected because Amazon does not currently support ECH. This means that foreign adversaries might be able to identify specific veterans in the midst of a mental health crisis.

- The Federal Bureau of Investigation operates an online tip line at tips.fbi.gov. Cloudflare hosts the website and already supports ECH, but the portal has not enabled this protection. This means that foreign adversaries might be able to identify anyone submitting tips to the FBI.

It is operationally feasible to close these security gaps today. Industry support is already well established; most major web browsers have supported ECH since October 2023 and Android added ECH support this August. ECH technology has been enabled across millions of active websites. For the federal domains using a CDN provider with ECH support, such as Cloudflare, turning on domain protection merely requires a configuration update. Furthermore, this upgrade introduces no operational downsides. Modern federal zero-trust cybersecurity practices rely on protective software installed directly on agency devices, so enabling ECH would strictly improve the cybersecurity of federal networks.

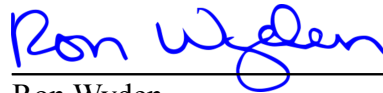
Requiring agencies and vendors to protect web addresses with ECH would build on actions previously taken by the federal government. For example, it would align with DHS's 2017 Binding Operational Directive 18-01 (BOD 18-01), which instructed federal agencies to encrypt their web services. It would also further the goals of the recently issued National Security Presidential Memorandum 12 (NSPM-12), which requires the securing of unclassified communications. As the next logical steps, I urge CISA and OMB to take the following actions:

- CISA should require that civilian federal agencies enable the protections of ECH across all public-facing websites and inter-agency web systems.
- OMB, in coordination with the Office of the National Cyber Director and CISA, should establish support for ECH protections as a mandatory condition for commercial cloud and network vendors seeking federal contracts.

Please provide my office with an unclassified response and action plan detailing your progress on these steps by November 20, 2026.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Daniel Reichert in my office.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator

CC: The Honorable Sean Cairncross, National Cyber Director

Attachment A: Non-Exhaustive List of Executive Branch Websites Using CDN Infrastructure Without ECH Protection

1. ncsacw.acf.gov
2. ncw.acf.gov
3. eldercare.acl.gov
4. elderjustice.acl.gov
5. olderindians.acl.gov
6. eforms.atf.gov
7. etrace.atf.gov
8. felezcheck.atf.gov
9. fflezcheck.atf.gov
10. ness.atf.gov
11. live.bats.gov
12. acs.bie.edu
13. bda.bie.edu
14. bds.bie.edu
15. bss.bie.edu
16. cds.bie.edu
17. ceb.bie.edu
18. cis.bie.edu
19. cov.bie.edu
20. crs.bie.edu
21. dbs.bie.edu
22. dds.bie.edu
23. dyh.bie.edu
24. fis.bie.edu
25. hes.bie.edu
26. ies.bie.edu
27. jds.bie.edu
28. jes.bie.edu
29. jfk.bie.edu
30. jrc.bie.edu
31. kbs.bie.edu
32. kcs.bie.edu
33. lvn.bie.edu
34. mfh.bie.edu
35. mls.bie.edu
36. nns.bie.edu
37. oes.bie.edu
38. ois.bie.edu
39. pps.bie.edu
40. prs.bie.edu
41. pss.bie.edu
42. ris.bie.edu
43. rrb.bie.edu
44. rrd.bie.edu
45. sds.bie.edu

46. seb.bie.edu
47. sfe.bie.edu
48. sih.bie.edu
49. sis.bie.edu
50. srb.bie.edu
51. srr.bie.edu
52. sss.bie.edu
53. sts.bie.edu
54. tcb.bie.edu
55. tcs.bie.edu
56. tds.bie.edu
57. tns.bie.edu
58. toh.bie.edu
59. ton.bie.edu
60. tse.bie.edu
61. tto.bie.edu
62. wes.bie.edu
63. whs.bie.edu
64. zds.bie.edu
65. r3mx.bop.gov
66. www2.fed.bop.gov
67. cbpcomplaints.cbp.gov
68. dhds.cdc.gov
69. finddoxypep.cdc.gov
70. api.childwelfare.gov
71. bids.cttso.gov
72. specs.cttso.gov
73. chat.diversion.dea.gov
74. contactcenter.diversion.dea.gov
75. caadi-7001.dhs.gov
76. cbplink.cbp.dhs.gov
77. esta.cbp.dhs.gov
78. hotline.oig.dhs.gov
79. lostandfound-intake.dol.gov
80. lostandfound.dol.gov
81. unemployment.dol.gov
82. kms.dsac.gov
83. dmcseddebt.ed.gov
84. trn.dmcseddebt.ed.gov
85. trn.myeddebt.ed.gov
86. uat.apps.myeddebt.ed.gov
87. uat.dmcseddebt.ed.gov
88. uat.myeddebt.ed.gov
89. uatvipssp.dmcseddebt.ed.gov
90. dev.epic.gov
91. vdrp.faa.gov
92. efoia.fbi.gov
93. icljobs.fbi.gov

94. tips.fbi.gov
95. consumercomplaints.fcc.gov
96. uat.fmjfee.com
97. reportefraude.ftc.gov
98. reportfraud.ftc.gov
99. www2.reportfraud.ftc.gov
100. treatments.hhs.gov
101. ahead.hiv.gov
102. bot.hiv.gov
103. clinicalinfo.hiv.gov
104. locator.hiv.gov
105. positivespin.hiv.gov
106. access.ice.gov
107. cebonds.ice.gov
108. eserviceregistration.ice.gov
109. hsiportal.ice.gov
110. locator.ice.gov
111. portal.ice.gov
112. sevp.ice.gov
113. apply.intelligencecareers.gov
114. wfi.intelligencecareers.gov
115. ipr2.iprcenter.gov
116. tips-beta.iprcenter.gov
117. bids.iwtsd.gov
118. soarc.iwtsd.gov
119. acis.eoir.justice.gov
120. civilrights.justice.gov
121. epay.eoir.justice.gov
122. ereg.eoir.justice.gov
123. foia.eoir.justice.gov
124. icorapi.eoir.justice.gov
125. join.justice.gov
126. ocaho.eoir.justice.gov
127. ovwreview.justice.gov
128. portal.eoir.justice.gov
129. alcoholtreatment.niaaa.nih.gov
130. hivinfo.nih.gov
131. oar.nih.gov
132. ombuds.nih.gov
133. www.niaaa.nih.gov
134. www.oar.nih.gov
135. uat.nsopw.gov
136. amberalert.ojp.gov
137. namus.nij.ojp.gov
138. nationalgangcenter.ojp.gov
139. ncirc.bja.ojp.gov
140. nsopw-api.ojp.gov
141. ovc.ojp.gov

142. smart.ojp.gov
143. www.amberalert.ojp.gov
144. go.rewardsforjustice.net
145. efms.aidvantage.studentaid.gov
146. gogreen.aidvantage.studentaid.gov
147. portal.mohela.studentaid.gov
148. sit.aidvantage.studentaid.gov
149. crp.tva.gov
150. everify.uscis.gov
151. tips.uscis.gov
152. bm.usconsulate.gov
153. cw.usconsulate.gov
154. hk.usconsulate.gov
155. wicbreastfeeding.fna.usda.gov
156. coop.esp.usdoj.gov
157. pps.esp.usdoj.gov
158. www.admp.usdoj.gov
159. china.usembassy-china.org.cn
160. ae.usembassy.gov
161. af.usembassy.gov
162. al.usembassy.gov
163. am.usembassy.gov
164. ao.usembassy.gov
165. ar.usembassy.gov
166. at.usembassy.gov
167. au.usembassy.gov
168. az.usembassy.gov
169. ba.usembassy.gov
170. bb.usembassy.gov
171. bd.usembassy.gov
172. be.usembassy.gov
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178. bn.usembassy.gov
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181. bs.usembassy.gov
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183. by.usembassy.gov
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185. ca.usembassy.gov
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199. cz.usembassy.gov
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207. eg.usembassy.gov
208. er.usembassy.gov
209. es.usembassy.gov
210. et.usembassy.gov
211. fi.usembassy.gov
212. fj.usembassy.gov
213. fm.usembassy.gov
214. fr.usembassy.gov
215. ga.usembassy.gov
216. ge.usembassy.gov
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223. gy.usembassy.gov
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225. hr.usembassy.gov
226. ht.usembassy.gov
227. hu.usembassy.gov
228. id.usembassy.gov
229. ie.usembassy.gov
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231. in.usembassy.gov
232. iq.usembassy.gov
233. ir.usembassy.gov
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274. ni.usembassy.gov
275. nl.usembassy.gov
276. no.usembassy.gov
277. np.usembassy.gov
278. nz.usembassy.gov
279. om.usembassy.gov
280. pa.usembassy.gov
281. pe.usembassy.gov
282. pg.usembassy.gov
283. ph.usembassy.gov
284. pk.usembassy.gov
285. pl.usembassy.gov

286. pt.usembassy.gov
287. pw.usembassy.gov
288. py.usembassy.gov
289. qa.usembassy.gov
290. ro.usembassy.gov
291. rs.usembassy.gov
292. ru.usembassy.gov
293. rw.usembassy.gov
294. sa.usembassy.gov
295. sc.usembassy.gov
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299. si.usembassy.gov
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302. sn.usembassy.gov
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306. sv.usembassy.gov
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315. tn.usembassy.gov
316. tr.usembassy.gov
317. tt.usembassy.gov
318. tz.usembassy.gov
319. ua.usembassy.gov
320. ug.usembassy.gov
321. uk.usembassy.gov
322. uy.usembassy.gov
323. uz.usembassy.gov
324. va.usembassy.gov
325. ve.usembassy.gov
326. vn.usembassy.gov
327. ws.usembassy.gov
328. xk.usembassy.gov
329. ye.usembassy.gov
330. za.usembassy.gov
331. zm.usembassy.gov
332. zw.usembassy.gov
333. asean.usmission.gov

334. geneva.usmission.gov
335. gw.usmission.gov
336. icao.usmission.gov
337. nato.usmission.gov
338. osce.usmission.gov
339. sm.usmission.gov
340. usau.usmission.gov
341. useu.usmission.gov
342. usoas.usmission.gov
343. usoecd.usmission.gov
344. usun.usmission.gov
345. usunrome.usmission.gov
346. vienna.usmission.gov
347. staging.ustraveldocs.com
348. www2.ustraveldocs.com
349. www.claims.vcf.gov
350. veteranscrisisline.net