

Texas AG sues Google for privacy violations over use of biometric data

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton on Thursday sued Google, alleging it violated privacy laws by illegally capturing and using the biometric data of millions of Texans' without their informed consent for almost a decade.

The suit, filed in Midland County state district court, accuses Google of collecting unique information of those who use its voice and facial recognition software through its products and services, such as Google Photos, Google Assistant and Nest Hub Max.

The two-term Republican attorney general, who is in a tight battle for re-election in the November midterm, alleges the use of the data violates a 2009 Texas privacy law prohibiting the exploitation of personal information for commercial interests.

That personal information is unlike other sensitive information such as credit card numbers, passwords or Social Security numbers in that it is "part of our unique, human identity and cannot be simply erased or replaced when stolen," the suit states.

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