

Statement of Chairman Jon Leibowitz
in Response to Letters Between Google and FTC Staff
Regarding Google Books and Consumer Privacy
September 3, 2009

The Google Books initiative could provide a wealth of benefits for consumers, yet it also raises serious privacy challenges because of the vast amount of user information that could be collected. Privacy is a top priority of the FTC, and I am pleased that Google has listened to FTC staff's concerns and agreed to take initial steps, as outlined in the letters, to protect the privacy of Google Books users. The FTC is engaged in a continuing dialogue with Google and others to ensure that consumers' privacy interests are protected when new technologies emerge. As Google Books evolves, we'll work to ensure that the privacy of online readers is fact, not fiction.