

# Reading your mail is legal in Bostin

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A Federal District Court in Boston, USA, last week ruled that it is legal for ISPs to read your email without your knowledge or permission, even before you receive it, as long as they make sure this is done by redirecting and not intercepting the mail.

Title 18 United States Code Section 2511 clearly says it is illegal to:

Except as otherwise specifically provided in this chapter any person who -

(a) intentionally intercepts, endeavors to intercept, or procures any other person to intercept or endeavor to intercept, any wire, oral, or electronic communication;

The bookstore Internloc added ISP services to their portfolio. They wanted to know more about their customers reading habits and secretly started to monitor email to and from Amazon.com. Technically this was done by adding a filter on their mail server which made copies of all mail coming from Amazon. Apparently, this somehow different from intercepting the mail...

Full story:

- [Close the E-Mail Wiretap Loophole](#)

**You should always encrypt your messages using GNU Privacy Guard when you are sending e-mail.**

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