

# COUNTRY: UNITED STATES

**SCORE: 82.36 | RANK: 2/24**

The United States has comprehensive and up-to-date laws for e-commerce, electronic signatures, and cybercrime. The US has signed and implemented the Convention on Cybercrime and plays a leading role in the investigation of global cybercrime.

Although no general privacy laws are in place, the US does have some useful sectoral privacy laws and an active regulator. There is ongoing debate and reform in the US regarding the balance between national security surveillance and privacy protection.

Intellectual property protection in the United States remains mixed. The US has signed all of the relevant international agreements, and a strong enforcement culture is in place. However, multiple conflicting court decisions leave considerable legal uncertainty about what constitutes an online copyright breach.

The United States is an active participant in international standards development processes and an advocate of free trade and harmonization. The US recorded a significant improvement in the free-trade section of the report, as it continued to remove barriers to international information technology (IT) interoperability.

The United States has high levels of Internet use, but access to fast broadband remains patchy. The National Broadband Plan has a goal that by 2020 at least 100 million households will have download speeds of 100 Mbps and upload speeds of 50 Mbps. Not all parts of the plan have been adopted or fully funded, however significant parts of the plan have been implemented.

Overall, the United States improved its ranking by one place to 2nd through a combination of positive policy developments and improved IT infrastructure.

Q UNITED STATES	RESPONSE	EXPLANATORY TEXT
<b>DATA PRIVACY (SCORE: 6.5/10   RANK: 14/24)</b>		
1. Are there laws or regulations governing the collection, use, or other processing of personal information?	●	<p>There is no single privacy law in the US. A range of specific, sectoral laws impose privacy obligations in specific circumstances. Privacy protection in the health sector and the financial services sector are both strong. However, there are numerous gaps and overlaps in coverage.</p> <p>Several attempts have been made, without success, to introduce more comprehensive privacy legislation. Proposals for sector-specific privacy legislation often have more success. For example, in 2015 draft legislation was introduced covering student data — refer to White House Fact Sheet “Safeguarding American Consumers and Families,” Jan. 12, 2015 at: &lt;<a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/01/12/fact-sheet-safeguarding-american-consumers-families">www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/01/12/fact-sheet-safeguarding-american-consumers-families</a>&gt;.</p>
2. What is the scope and coverage of privacy law?	Sectoral	<p>Current key sectoral privacy laws include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Federal Trade Commission Act — prohibits unfair or deceptive practices, and this requirement has been applied to company privacy policies in several prominent cases.</li> <li>• The Electronic Communications Privacy Act — protects consumers against interception of their electronic communication (with numerous exceptions).</li> <li>• The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) — contains privacy rules applying to certain categories of health and medical research data.</li> <li>• The Fair Credit Reporting Act — includes privacy rules for credit reporting and consumer reports.</li> <li>• The Telephone Consumer Protection Act — regulates telemarketing and text-message marketing.</li> </ul>

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3. Is the privacy law compatible with the Privacy Principles in the EU Data Protection Directive?	🔵	The United States approach to privacy law is quite different from the European Union (EU) approach. As there are some gaps in US coverage, the US approach is not compatible with the EU Directive for all sectors or all organizations.  Privacy protection in the health sector and financial services sector is governed by strong sectoral laws that provide a level of protection similar to that available in Europe. US organizations also have a range of voluntary options to ensure their data protection practices are compatible with the principles in the EU Directive.
4. Is the privacy law compatible with the Privacy Principles in the APEC Privacy Framework?	🔵	The patchwork of US privacy laws is partially compatible with the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) privacy framework. However, for the many companies that are not covered by sectoral laws and that have not opted into self-regulatory schemes, no privacy protection is available.  The US participates in the voluntary APEC Cross Border Privacy Rules system (CBPRs) and a small number of companies (12 as of September 2015) have been certified under that scheme < <a href="http://www.cbprs.org">www.cbprs.org</a> >.
5. Is an independent private right of action available for breaches of data privacy?	Available	There is no specific right to privacy in the US Constitution. However, various Supreme Court cases have found that a limited constitutional right of privacy exists, based on a combination of provisions in the Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments. See for example: <i>Katz v. US</i> , 386 US 954 (1967) < <a href="http://laws.findlaw.com/US/386/954.html">laws.findlaw.com/US/386/954.html</a> >. Individual actions and class actions are very common, usually based on a mix of constitutional rights and consumer laws.
6. Is there an effective agency (or regulator) tasked with the enforcement of privacy laws?	Sectoral regulator	A number of organizations have a limited privacy oversight role, including the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) < <a href="http://www.ftc.gov">www.ftc.gov</a> >, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) < <a href="http://www.fcc.gov">www.fcc.gov</a> > and some specific federal and state sectoral regulators. No single organization has an over-arching privacy regulatory role.  In recent years, US regulators (particularly the FTC and the FCC) have undertaken significant enforcement action in relation to privacy breaches. These high-profile cases and campaigns help to strengthen overall privacy protection in the United States.
7. What is the nature of the privacy regulator?	Other government official	A wide variety of regulators are in place; most are appointed government officials.
8. Are data controllers free from registration requirements?	✅	There are no general registration requirements in the US.
9. Are cross-border transfers free from registration requirements?	🔵	There are no restrictions or registration requirements in the US relating to cross-border transfers of data from the US to other countries. However, organizations that wish to be members of some self-regulatory schemes that promote cross-border transfers (e.g., the APEC Cross Border Privacy Rules system) are required to undergo complex annual registration and certification procedures.
10. Is there a breach notification law?	✅	There are numerous, but inconsistent, state data-breach notification laws in the US. Typically, these require notification both to an appropriate regulator (e.g., the relevant state attorney general) and to the affected consumers.  A federal data-breach notification law has been proposed but is not yet in place. In 2015, the White House released the Personal Data Notification & Protection Bill < <a href="http://whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/legislative/letters/updated-data-breach-notification.pdf">whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/legislative/letters/updated-data-breach-notification.pdf</a> >, which would potentially establish a single national standard for all data-breach notification requirements. However, passing the bill faces many challenges.
<b>SECURITY (SCORE: 7.6/10   RANK: 4/24)</b>		
1. Is there a law or regulation that gives electronic signatures clear legal weight?	✅	The Uniform Electronic Transactions Act 1999 establishes the legal equivalence of electronic records and signatures with paper writings and manually signed signatures, removing barriers to electronic commerce.  The Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act 2000 (the E-SIGN Act) provides a more-detailed legal framework for recognizing electronic signatures.
2. Are ISPs and content service providers free from mandatory filtering or censoring?	✅	The courts have regularly upheld the First Amendment right to free speech in the US Constitution and struck down laws intended to regulate access to Internet content. No current filtering or censorship is in place in the US.
3. Are there laws or enforceable codes containing general security requirements for digital data hosting and cloud service providers?	Limited coverage in legislation	There is no general security requirement in US law. However, there are numerous sectoral security requirements, especially in relation to financial services and health data. Some of these requirements can be very specific, including requirements to encrypt data and take steps to identify identity fraud. One state (California) imposes stronger security requirements (including encryption) for most databases containing personal information.

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4. Are there laws or enforceable codes containing specific security audit requirements for digital data hosting and cloud service providers?	Limited coverage in legislation	<p>There are no specific enforceable security audit requirements in the US. In the absence of privacy laws, most security requirements stem from consumer law. For example, a company that hosts data and claims to hold the data securely, may face consequences for misleading consumers about that claim. The Federal Trade Commission occasionally takes action against online businesses that have poor security audit practices. Private actions and class actions for security breaches are also common in the US, and this litigation tends to act as a default security audit requirement.</p> <p>Additional security standards are in place in sectoral laws and guidelines. For example, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 (P.L.104-191) security requirements in the health sector, the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) in the payments industry sector, and security audit requirements in relevant credit reporting legislation.</p>
5. Are there security laws and regulations requiring specific certifications for technology products?	Comprehensive requirements (including common criteria)	<p>The United States is the world's most active user of security certifications for technology products, and implements the international Common Criteria program in the majority of domestic IT procurement rules.</p> <p>The US is a Certificate Authorizing Member (the highest level) of the Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement (CCRA) &lt;<a href="http://www.commoncriteriaportal.org">www.commoncriteriaportal.org</a>&gt;.</p>
<b>CYBERCRIME (SCORE: 9/10   RANK: 8/24)</b>		
1. Are cybercrime laws in place?	✓	There are several relevant statutes in the US. The key cybercrime provisions are contained in the Federal Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (CFAA), 18 USC 1030. Other provisions appear in the PATRIOT Act and other minor statutes.
2. Are cybercrime laws consistent with the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime?	✓	US law is compatible with the Convention on Cybercrime. The US ratified the Cybercrime Convention in 2006.
3. What access do law enforcement authorities have to encrypted data held or transmitted by data hosting providers, carriers or other service providers?	Access with a warrant	<p>In most cases, access with a warrant is sufficient, however the legal situation varies between jurisdictions. The law on access to encrypted data was tested by the court case, US v. Fricosu (2011) No. 10-cr-00509-REB-02, which resulted in the judgement that the US Constitution's Fifth Amendment, which protects a citizen's right to remain silent in some circumstances, does not protect accused parties from having to reveal encrypted data. The application of this test to data held by third parties remains uncertain.</p> <p>In 2015, there were some proposals from law enforcement agencies that have raised the need for greater access to encrypted data and for access to encryption keys for national security-related investigations and surveillance. This issue is the subject of ongoing debate in the US.</p>
4. How does the law deal with extraterritorial offenses?	Limited coverage	The CFAA (18 USC 1030) has no specific extraterritorial provisions. However, the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act 2001 (PATRIOT Act) includes provisions relating to a computer located outside the US that is used in a manner that affects interstate or foreign commerce or communication of the United States, for terrorism or fraud.
<b>INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (SCORE: 16.6/20   RANK: 11/24)</b>		
1. Is the country a member of the TRIPS Agreement?	✓	The United States became a member of the TRIPS Agreement in 1995.
2. Have IP laws been enacted to implement TRIPS?	✓	The United States has implemented the TRIPS Agreement in its local copyright legislation.
3. Is the country party to the WIPO Copyright Treaty?	✓	The United States signed the WIPO Copyright Treaty in 1997 and ratified it in 1999. It entered into force in the United States in March 2002.
4. Have laws implementing the WIPO Copyright Treaty been enacted?	✓	The Digital Millennium Copyright Act implements the WIPO Copyright Treaty provisions in the US.

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5. Are civil sanctions available for unauthorized making available (posting) of copyright holders' works on the Internet?	ⓘ	<p>Section 106(3) of the Copyright Act would appear to include a "making available" right, in accordance with the US commitments under international copyright agreements. However, court interpretation of this section is inconsistent, with some courts arguing that further copying and distribution must occur, rather than merely making the copyright material available.</p> <p>The leading case, involving multiple litigation over a number of years, is <i>Capitol v. Thomas-Rasset</i> (2008-2012, various citations). The latest decision in the case (September 2012, Court of Appeals, 8th Circuit) ruled that the high level of statutory damages imposed for willful copyright infringement is constitutionally valid, as it is intended to serve a public interest purpose in discouraging illegal file sharing. However, the Court of Appeals failed to rule on the legality of "making available," finding that the case could be resolved on other grounds. Another recent Supreme Court case, <i>ABC v. Aereo</i> 573 U.S. 2014 &lt;supremecourt.gov/opinions/13pdf/13-461_1537.pdf&gt; provides some limited hope that the courts can tackle "making available" using existing powers in relation to rebroadcasting, but the circumstances in which this might work are very limited.</p> <p>The US Copyright Office has been undertaking a national study on the right of "making available" since early 2014, including options for further law reform &lt;copyright.gov/docs/making_available/&gt;. The final report of the study has not yet been released.</p>
6. Are criminal sanctions available for unauthorized making available (posting) of copyright holders' works on the Internet?	ⓘ	<p>On paper, criminal sanctions are available for any willful infringement of copyright in the US.</p> <p>However, due to the uncertainty that has arisen in "making available" decisions resulting from civil proceedings, there has been no action in the US to pursue criminal sanctions for "making available." Criminal sanctions for other infringements have generally been used sparingly with a mix of low fines and probation. However, the severity of sanctions has increased steadily in recent years.</p>
7. Are there laws governing ISP liability for content that infringes copyright?	✓	<p>The Online Copyright Infringement Liability Limitation Act (OCILLA) creates a safe harbor for Internet service providers (ISPs) by shielding them for certain acts of copyright infringement, as long as they were not aware of the infringement and they respond promptly to takedown requests. These provisions now form Section 512 of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA), and notices are typically referred to as DMCA takedown notices.</p> <p>Where the ISP safe-harbor conditions are not met, US common law on copyright applies. In these cases, there is considerable uncertainty about the extent of ISP liability for breaches outside their direct control.</p>
8. Is there a basis for ISPs to be held liable for content that infringes copyright found on their sites or systems?	✓	ISPs may be held liable for infringing content that they were made aware of if they do not meet the safe-harbor conditions in the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA).
9. What sanctions are available for ISP liability for copyright infringing content found on their site or system?	Civil and criminal	A full range of civil penalties is available. Criminal sanctions are more limited and do not apply to all copyright infringements.
10. Must ISPs take down content that infringes copyright, upon notification by the right holder?	✓	The use of DMCA takedown notices is widespread in the US. Subject to certain limited exceptions, the notices are usually enforceable.
11. Are ISPs required to inform subscribers upon receiving a notification that the subscriber is using the ISP's service to distribute content that infringes copyright?	ⓘ	US ISPs voluntarily pass on copyright breach notices and alerts to subscribers. This is not an enforceable requirement of a particular law; it has simply become common business practice through programs such as the industry-led Copyright Alert System (CAS) <www.copyrightinformation.org/the-copyright-alert-system>. Most large ISPs belong to the voluntary CAS which has a six-strike graduated response approach to copyright infringement. Some smaller ISPs have alternative approaches, such as a 10-strike policy.
12. Is there clear legal protection against misappropriation of cloud computing services, including effective enforcement?	Comprehensive protection	The US provides useful layers of protection through its cybercrime laws and copyright laws. There is some uncertainty about the application of copyright laws to online posting, and there are gaps in privacy law, but overall the level of protection available for cloud computing services is adequate.

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<b>SUPPORT FOR INDUSTRY LED STANDARDS &amp; INTERNATIONAL HARMONIZATION OF RULES (SCORE: 10/10   RANK: 1/24)</b>		
1. Are there laws, regulations or policies that establish a standards setting framework for interoperability and portability of data?	✓	<p>There is no specific legislation on national standards in the US, but the development of standards is guided by a policy document, the United States Standards Strategy &lt;<a href="http://www.ansi.org/standards_activities/nss/uss.aspx">www.ansi.org/standards_activities/nss/uss.aspx</a>&gt;, that is regularly updated.</p> <p>The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) &lt;<a href="http://www.nist.gov">www.nist.gov</a>&gt; is the organization that has carriage of cloud computing standards. In 2012, NIST issued formal guidelines for managing security and privacy issues in cloud computing: Guidelines on Security and Privacy in Public Cloud Computing (NIST Special Publication 800-144).</p> <p>In October 2014, NIST also published the US Government Cloud Computing Technology Roadmap, &lt;<a href="http://www.nist.gov/itl/antd/cloud-102214.cfm">www.nist.gov/itl/antd/cloud-102214.cfm</a>&gt;.</p> <p>The work of NIST on cloud computing standards is recognised in the ISO/IEC Standard 17788:2014, Information technology — Cloud computing — Overview and vocabulary, issued by the International Standards Organization in October 2014 &lt;<a href="http://www.iso.org/iso/catalogue_detail?csnumber=60544">www.iso.org/iso/catalogue_detail?csnumber=60544</a>&gt;.</p>
2. Is there a regulatory body responsible for standards development for the country?	✓	<p>The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) &lt;<a href="http://www.ansi.org">www.ansi.org</a>&gt; is a nonprofit organization that represents the US in international standards development processes.</p> <p>ANSI does not develop standards; it oversees the development and use of standards by accrediting the procedures of standards developing organizations. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) &lt;<a href="http://www.nist.gov">www.nist.gov</a>&gt; is the relevant standards-setting body for the digital economy and cloud computing.</p>
3. Are e-commerce laws in place?	✓	The Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (UETA) has helped to implement consistent e-commerce laws in 47 US jurisdictions.
4. What international instruments are the e-commerce laws based on?	Other	US legislation, including separate digital signature and e-commerce legislation, is unique and is not based on any international instrument. However, the core rules are similar to the UNCITRAL Model Law on E-Commerce.
5. Is the downloading of applications or digital data from foreign cloud service providers free from tariff or other trade barriers?	✓	There are no relevant tariffs in the United States.
6. Are international standards favored over domestic standards?	✓	Most relevant standards in the US have been developed through international cooperation, and US standards either reflect international standards or are themselves adopted as international standards.
7. Does the government participate in international standards setting process?	✓	Both ANSI and NIST participate in relevant international standards-setting processes.
<b>PROMOTING FREE TRADE (SCORE: 10/10   RANK: 1/24)</b>		
1. Are there any laws or policies in place that implement technology neutrality in government?	✓	The US government has a formal policy in place: White House Memorandum on Technology Neutrality, January 2011 < <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/egov_docs/memotociostechnologyneutrality.pdf">www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/egov_docs/memotociostechnologyneutrality.pdf</a> >.
2. Are cloud computing services able to operate free from laws or policies that mandate the use of certain products (including, but not limited to types of software), services, standards or technologies?	✓	There are no relevant mandatory requirements in the United States.
3. Are cloud computing services able to operate free from laws or policies that establish preferences for certain products (including, but not limited to types of software), services, standards or technologies?	✓	There are no relevant preferences in the United States.



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4. Are cloud computing services able to operate free from laws that discriminate based on the nationality of the vendor, developer or service provider?	✓	<p>The US does impose some limited domestic preferences in legislation. The Buy American Act (BAA) 1933 (regularly updated) contains broad domestic preferences for US procurement.</p> <p>However, the Buy America provisions rarely apply to the IT sector. Since 2004, the Buy America Act has included an exemption for the purchase of any “commercial information technology product.” This exemption was reaffirmed and clarified in 2012, and means that cloud services are unlikely to be caught by the BAA provisions.</p> <p>The BAA provisions are also waived for federal procurement covered under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) and free trade agreements (FTAs). The US acceded to the revised Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) in April 2014.</p>
<b>IT READINESS, BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT (SCORE: 22.7/30   RANK: 3/24)</b>		
1. Is there a national broadband plan?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2020, at least 100 million homes to have affordable access to download speeds of 100 Mbps and upload speeds of 50 Mbps.</li> <li>By 2020, every household to have access to download speeds of 4 Mbps and upload speeds of 1 Mbps.</li> </ul>	<p>In 2010, the Federal Communications Commission unveiled the national broadband plan, “Connecting America” &lt;<a href="http://www.fcc.gov/national-broadband-plan">www.fcc.gov/national-broadband-plan</a>&gt;.</p> <p>The national broadband plan sets a number of goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2020, at least 100 million households to have download speeds of 100 Mbps and upload speeds of 50 Mbps</li> <li>By 2020, every community should have affordable access of at least 1 Gbps to anchor institutions (schools, hospitals and government buildings)</li> </ul> <p>Not all parts of the plan have been adopted or fully funded, however significant parts of the plan have been implemented, including the roll-out of the Connect America Fund in 2012, which addresses broadband coverage in rural areas.</p>
2. Are there laws or policies that regulate the establishment of different service levels for data transmission based on the nature of data transmitted?	Multiple regulations and extensive public debate	<p>Net neutrality is a high-profile and controversial issue in the United States. There is no specific net neutrality legislation at a federal level, although there have been rules that support net neutrality adopted by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the independent government regulator of interstate communications. The FCC approved the net neutrality rules in February 2015. The rules prohibit mobile and fixed broadband service providers from blocking, throttling or prioritizing Internet traffic for commercial purposes &lt;<a href="http://www.fcc.gov/openinternet">www.fcc.gov/openinternet</a>&gt;.</p> <p>The rules, which came into effect June 21, 2015, are subject to a number of lawsuits.</p>
3. Base Indicators		
3.1. Population (millions) (2014)	320	<p>In 2014, the population of the United States increased by 0.8%.</p> <p>[International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database (Dec 2015) &lt;<a href="http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/publications/world/world.html">www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/publications/world/world.html</a>&gt;]</p>
3.2. Urban Population (%) (2014)	81%	[World Bank, Data Catalog, Indicators, Urban Population (2015) < <a href="http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.TOTL.IN.ZS">data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.TOTL.IN.ZS</a> >]
3.3. Number of Households (millions) (2014)	122	<p>In 2014, the number of households in the United States increased by 0.8%.</p> <p>[International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database (Dec 2015) &lt;<a href="http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/publications/world/world.html">www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/publications/world/world.html</a>&gt;]</p>
3.4. Population Density (people per square km) (2014)	35	[World Bank, Data Catalog, Indicators, Population Density (2015) < <a href="http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.POP.DNST">data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.POP.DNST</a> >]
3.5. Per Capita GDP (US\$ 2014)	\$54,629	<p>In 2014, the per capita gross domestic product (GDP) for the United States increased by 2.4% to US \$54,629.</p> <p>[World Bank, Data Catalog, Indicators: GDP per capita, current US\$ (2015) &lt;<a href="http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD">data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD</a>&gt; and GDP growth, annual % (2015) &lt;<a href="http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG">data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG</a>&gt;]</p>

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3.6. IT Service Exports (2014) (billions of US\$)	165.40	In 2014, the value of IT Service Exports for the US increased by 5.4% to US \$165.40 billion. The five-year compound annual growth rate (CAGR) from 2009-2014 was 6.7%. [World Bank, Data Catalog, Indicators: ICT Service Exports US\$ (Dec 2015) <data.worldbank.org/indicator/BX.GSR.CCIS.CD>]
3.7. Personal Computers (2014) (% of households)	81%	In 2014, 81.5% of households in the US had personal computers. This is an increase of 1.8% since 2013 and ranks the United States 31 out of 183 countries surveyed. The growth from 2013 is below the five-year CAGR from 2009 to 2014 of 2%. [International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database (Dec 2015) <www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/publications/wtid.aspx>]
4. IT and Network Readiness Indicators		
4.1. ITU ICT Development Index (IDI) (2015) (Score is out of 10 and covers 167 countries)	8.19	The United States ITU ICT Development Index (IDI) for 2015 is 8.19 (out of 10), resulting in a rank of 15 (out of 167) countries. The 2015 IDI for the United States increased by 2.1%, and the IDI ranking declined by one place from a rank of 14 since 2013. [International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Measuring the Information Society (Dec 2015) <www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/publications/mis2015.aspx>]
4.2. World Economic Forum Networked Readiness Index (NRI) (2015) (Score is out of 7 and covers 143 countries)	5.64	The United States has a Networked Readiness Index (NRI) score of 5.64 (out of 7), resulting in a rank of 7 (out of 143) countries and a rank of 6 (out of 31) in the high income: OECD grouping of countries. The 2015 NRI for the US increased by 0.6%, and the ranking has remained the same since 2014. [World Economic Forum, Global Information Technology Report (2015) <reports.weforum.org/global-information-technology-report-2015>]
4.3. International Connectivity Score (2014) (Score is out of 10 and covers 52 countries)	6.46	The United States has an International Connectivity Score of 6.46 (out of 10), resulting in a rank of 1 (out of 26) in the innovation-driven grouping of countries. [International Connectivity Scorecard (2013) <www.connectivityscorecard.org>]
5. Internet Users and International Bandwidth		
5.1. Internet Users (millions) (2014)	269	[International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database (Dec 2015) <www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/publications/world/world.html>]
5.2. Internet Users as Percentage of Population (2014)	84%	In 2014, 84% of the population in the United States used the Internet, resulting in a ranking of 21 out of 199 countries surveyed. This represents an increase of 6.2% since 2013. The growth from 2013 is above the five-year CAGR from 2009-2014 of 2.6%. [International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database (Dec 2015) <www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/publications/wtid.aspx>] Note: There may be some variations as to how countries calculate this. Some countries base this upon all or part of the population, such as between 16 and 72 years of age.
5.3. International Internet Bandwidth (2014) (bits per second per Internet user)	70,970	The International Internet Bandwidth (per Internet user) of the United States has increased by 12% since 2013. The growth from 2013 is below the five-year CAGR from 2009-2014 of 17.4%. [International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database (Dec 2015) <www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/publications/world/world.html>]
5.4. International Internet Bandwidth (2014) (total gigabits per second [Gbps] per country)	20,000	The United States has increased its International Internet Bandwidth by 17% since 2013 to 20,000 Gbps and is ranked 2 out of 215 countries surveyed. The growth from 2013 is below the 5-year CAGR from 2008-2013 of 23.4%. [International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database (Dec 2015) <www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/publications/world/world.html>]
6. Fixed Broadband		
6.1. Fixed Broadband Subscriptions (millions) (2014)	94	The United States has increased the number of fixed broadband subscribers by 4% since 2013 to 94 million, and is ranked 2 out of 215 countries surveyed. The growth from 2013 is close to the five-year CAGR from 2009-2014 of 4.3%. [International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database (Dec 2015) <www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/publications/world/world.html>]
6.2. Fixed Broadband Subscriptions as % of households (2014)	77%	[International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database (Dec 2015) <www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/publications/world/world.html>] Note: This may be skewed by business usage in some countries.

Q UNITED STATES	RESPONSE	EXPLANATORY TEXT
6.3. Fixed Broadband Subscriptions as % of population (2014)	31%	The United States has increased its fixed broadband subscriptions (as a % of the population) by 3.5% since 2013, which is below the five-year CAGR from 2009-2014 of 3.7%. This ranks the US 26 out of 215 countries surveyed.  [International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database (Dec 2015) < <a href="http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/publications/world/world.html">www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/publications/world/world.html</a> >]
6.4. Fixed Broadband Subscriptions as % of Internet users (2014)	35%	[International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database (June 2014) < <a href="http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/publications/world/world.html">www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/publications/world/world.html</a> >]
7. Mobile Broadband		
7.1. Mobile Cellular Subscriptions (millions) (2014)	356	In 2014, the United States increased the number of mobile cellular subscriptions by 14.4% and is ranked 3 out of 215 countries surveyed. The number of subscriptions account for 111% of the population.  [International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database (Dec 2015) < <a href="http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/publications/world/world.html">www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/publications/world/world.html</a> >]  Note: This figure may be inflated due to multiple subscriptions per head of population, but excludes dedicated mobile broadband devices (such as 3G data cards, tablets, etc.).
7.2. Active Mobile Broadband Subscriptions per 100 inhabitants (2014)	103	The United States has increased the number of active mobile-broadband subscriptions (as a % of the population) by 5% since 2013. This ranks the US 15 out of 215 countries surveyed.  [International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database (Dec 2015) < <a href="http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/publications/world/world.html">www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/publications/world/world.html</a> >]  Note: This refers to the sum of standard mobile-broadband and dedicated mobile-broadband subscriptions to the public Internet. It covers actual subscribers, not potential subscribers, even though the latter may have broadband-enabled handsets.
7.3. Number of Active Mobile Broadband Subscriptions (millions) (2014)	331	In 2014, the United States has increased the number of active mobile-broadband subscriptions by 6% and is ranked 2 out of 215.  [International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database (Dec 2015) < <a href="http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/publications/world/world.html">www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/publications/world/world.html</a> >]