

The neveragain.tech pledge

Speaker:

Ka-Ping Yee

@zestyping

zestyping@gmail.com

neveragain.tech

Write a list of things you would never do. Because it is possible that in the next year, you will do them. —Sarah Kendzior [1]

Our pledge

We, the undersigned, are employees of tech organizations and companies based in the United States. We are engineers, designers, business executives, and others whose jobs include managing or processing data about people. We are choosing to stand in solidarity with Muslim Americans, immigrants, and all people whose lives and livelihoods are threatened by the incoming administration's proposed data collection policies. We refuse to build a database of people based on their Constitutionally-protected religious beliefs. We refuse to facilitate mass deportations of people the government believes to be undesirable.

We have educated ourselves on the history of threats like these, and on the roles that technology and technologists played in carrying them out. We see how [IBM collaborated to digitize and streamline the Holocaust](#), contributing to the deaths of six million Jews and millions of others. We recall the [internment of Japanese Americans](#) during the Second World War. We recognize that [mass deportations](#) precipitated the very atrocity the word genocide was [created](#) to describe: the murder of 1.5 million Armenians in Turkey. We acknowledge that genocides are not merely a relic of the distant past—among others, [Tutsi Rwandans](#) and [Bosnian Muslims](#) have been victims in our lifetimes.

Today we stand together to say: not on our watch, and never again.

We commit to the following actions:

- We refuse to participate in the creation of databases of identifying information for the United States government to target individuals based on race, religion, or national origin.
- We will advocate within our organizations:
 - to minimize the collection and retention of data that would facilitate ethnic or religious targeting.
 - to scale back existing datasets with unnecessary racial, ethnic, and national origin data.
 - to responsibly destroy high-risk datasets and backups.
 - to implement security and privacy best practices, in particular, for end-to-end encryption to be the default wherever possible.
 - to demand appropriate legal process should the government request that we turn over user data collected by our organization, even in small amounts.
- If we discover misuse of data that we consider illegal or unethical in our organizations:
 - We will work with our colleagues and leaders to correct it.
 - If we cannot stop these practices, we will exercise our [rights](#) and responsibilities to speak out publicly and engage in [responsible whistleblowing](#) without endangering users.
 - If we have the authority to do so, we will use all available legal defenses to stop these practices.
 - If we do not have such authority, and our organizations force us to engage in such misuse, we will resign from our positions rather than comply.
- We will raise awareness and ask critical questions about the responsible and fair use of data and algorithms beyond our organization and our industry.

Learn more [about the pledge](#) or read more [resources](#).

Signatories' references to affiliated organizations below are for identification purposes and are not intended to imply an endorsement by the organization.

Number of signatories: 2833.

Signed,

[A. Martin Castro](#)

[A. Wilcox](#), Senior Software Engineer

Aaron Becker, Google

[Aaron Bonnell-Kangas](#)

[Aaron Brethorst](#)

[Aaron Couch](#), DKAN

[Aaron Cowdin](#), DevOps, PrensenceLearning, Inc.

[Aaron Crespo](#), Engineer, third generation holocaust survivor

Aaron Gee-Clough

[Aaron Jacobson](#)

Aaron Kraus, Reciprocity, Inc.

Aaron L. Sullivan, Software Developer

[Aaron Lee](#), Senior Vice President, Pythian, Inc

[Aaron Max Fein](#), Founder, Wrangler, WP-Networks

[Aaron Nordyke](#), Software Engineer, C2FO

[Aaron Patterson](#), Systems Engineer, GitHub

[Aaron Petcoff](#), The New Yorker

Aaron Ringgenberg, DevOps Engineer, Patreon

[Aaron Smith](#), DevOps Engineer, Civis Analytics

[Aaron Smith](#), Software Engineer

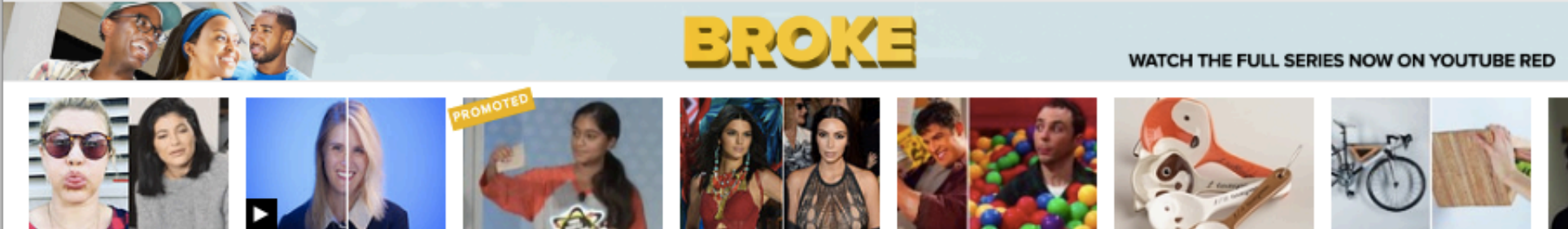
Aaron Snitzer

[Aaron Suarez](#), Student, UMUC

- John Garvin
- [John Haley](#), GitKraken Product Manager, Axosoft
- [John Hazen](#), Lead Program Manager, Microsoft
- [John Hearn](#), Software Developer
- [John Hergenroeder](#)
- John Jackson, Network Consulting Engineer, Cisco
- [John Karabaic](#), Proprietor, Subsequent Software
- [John Kavanagh](#), Slack
- John Kussmann, Software Engineer
- John Maeda, Automattic
- [John Manoogian III](#), Internet Artisan, Design Hacks
- [John Marc Imbrescia](#), Software Engineer
- [John Mark Schofield](#), OpenStack Support Engineer, Cisco
- John Marshall, Stripe
- [John McGrath](#)
- [John Merrill](#)
- [John Mott](#), Lead Software Developer, O'CONNORS
- [John Mullanaphy](#), Lead Software Engineer
- [John Olson](#), Engineering Manager, Google
- [John Reese](#), Production Engineer, Facebook
- [John Resig](#), Khan Academy
- John Ryan
- John Slivka, Oracle
- John Spady, Founder, National Dialogue Network
- John Wineman, Cloudflare
- [John Wiseman](#)
- John-Mark Gurney, Principal Security Architect
- [John-Paul Teti](#), Software developer, University of Maryland

BuzzFeedNEWS

News Videos Quizzes Tasty DIY More [Get Our News App](#)




TECH

Silicon Valley Engineers Pledge To Never Build A Muslim Registry

Engineers and employees from major tech companies — including Google, IBM, Slack, and Stripe — have pledged never to build a database of people based on their religious beliefs.


posted on Dec. 13, 2016, at 6:59 p.m.

 **Nitasha Tiku**
BuzzFeed News Reporter




TOP STORIES IN **TECH**

PRESENTED BY **DIRECTV NOW**



AT&T Will Let You Stream Cable A Month



Tech workers pledge to never help Trump build Muslim registry

by Selena Larson @selenalarson

December 13, 2016: 1:58 PM ET



Fear, anger over potential 'Muslim registry'

Social Surge - What's Trending



Cinnabon apologizes for tasteless Carrie Fisher tweet



Amazon holiday sales: Enough TVs to dwarf Mt. Everest



George Michael helped put 'Carpool Karaoke' on the map

CAPTURE THE WORLD OF MEDIA.

RELIABLE SOURCES

Donald Trump made a lot of promises on the campaign trail. And



DEC 13, 2016 @ 04:21 PM 2,156 VIEWS

The Little Black Book of Billionaire Secrets

'Never Again' Is Silicon Valley's Public Pledge To Refuse A Muslim Registry



Zara Stone, CONTRIBUTOR

I write about the intersection of technology and culture
FULL BIO ▾

Opinions expressed by Forbes Contributors are their own.



SHARE >



Total Wine
SPIRITS • BEER & MORE

Make Your Holidays a Total Success

AMERICA'S SPIRITS SUPERSTORE OVER 3,000 SPIRITS

N.Y. / REGION

Obama to Dismantle Visitor Registry Before Trump Can Revive It

By J. DAVID GOODMAN and RON NIXON DEC. 22, 2016





In recent days, [dozens of Democratic](#) officials in Washington, as well as the New York State attorney general, [Eric T. Schneiderman](#), have called for the regulations to be rescinded.

“No known terrorism convictions have resulted from the program,” read a joint letter, dated Dec. 1, from more than 50 Democratic members of the House of Representatives. Mr. Schneiderman, a Democrat and a vocal opponent of Mr. Trump, said the program was “an affront to our core American values of pluralism and equal justice under law.”

Facebook, Microsoft, Google and Apple are among several technology companies that have publicly stated that they would not assist the new administration in developing any program that would collect information that could be used by the government to track immigrants from Muslim countries.

The technology companies took action after thousands of Silicon Valley engineers signed a pledge saying they stood in solidarity with Muslim Americans and immigrants and would not use their skills for the “new administration’s proposed data-collection policies.”

“We refuse to build a database of people based on their constitutionally protected religious beliefs,” the engineers said in a [statement](#).

Mr. Hakim, in his statement, said the regulations had long since been