

Provisions of the Cybercrime Act, 2015



The Cybercrime Act was enacted into law by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in March, 2015. The objectives of this Act are to:

- Provide an effective and unified Legal, Regulatory and Institutional Framework for the Prohibition, Prevention, Detection, Prosecution and Punishment of Cybercrimes in Nigeria;
- Ensure the protection of Critical National Information Infrastructure; and
- Promote Cyber Security and the protection of Computer Systems and Networks, Electronic Communications, Data and Computer Programs, Intellectual Property and Privacy Rights.

There are thirty two (32) offenses and penalties in the Cybercrime Act 2015, below are some of the offenses and penalties consumers should keep abreast of:

Unlawful Access to the Computer:

Any person, who without authorization, intentionally accesses in whole or in part, a computer system or network for fraudulent purposes and obtain data that are vital to national security, commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of not more than 5 years or to a fine of not more than N5, 000,000.00 or to both fine and imprisonment.

Unlawful Interception:

Any person, who intentionally and without authorization, intercepts by technical means, non-public transmissions of computer data, content, or traffic data, including electromagnetic emissions or signals from a computer system or network carrying emitting signals to or from a computer, computer system or connected system or network; commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of not more than 2 years or to a fine of not more than N5,000,000.00 or to both such fine and imprisonment.

Computer Related Fraud:

Any person who knowingly and without authority or in excess of authority causes any loss of property to another by altering, erasing, inputting or suppressing any data held in any computer, whether or not for the purpose of conferring any economic benefits on himself or another person commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of not less than 3 years or to a fine of not less than N7, 000,000.00 or both fine and imprisonment.

Computer Related Forgery:

A person who knowingly accesses any computer or network and input, alters, deletes or suppresses any data resulting in inauthentic data with the intention that such inauthentic data will be considered or acted upon as if it were authentic or genuine, regardless of whether or not such data is directly readable or intelligible, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of not less than 3 years or to a fine of not less than N7, 000,000.00 or both.