

Data brokers raise privacy concerns — but get millions from the federal government | POLITICO

By Alfred Ng

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The idea was simple and appealing: Give citizens a single, easy-to-use webpage to access all kinds of federal services, from passport renewal to small-business loans.

The site, Login.gov, launched in 2017 and got backing from the Biden administration in an executive order last December. As of this week, it's connected to more than 20 government agencies, including the Small Business Administration, the Office of Personnel Management, the Social Security Administration and NASA.

But when citizens enter their personal information to register for the site, it's not the federal government that validates it — it's a group of private-sector data brokers, companies that are increasingly under scrutiny for collecting, storing and selling massive amounts of information on Americans without their knowledge.

[...]

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