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<p>Imagine there's a company.</p> <p>A company that was fined for obstructing a federal investigation.</p>	<p>FCC: "Based on our review of the facts and circumstances before us, we find that Google, which holds Commission licenses, is apparently liable for a forfeiture penalty of \$25,000 for its noncompliance with Bureau information and document requests." http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-12-592A1.pdf</p> <p>NYT: "The Federal Communications Commission censured Google for obstructing an inquiry into the Street View project" http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/16/technology/fccs-google-case-leaves-unanswered-questions.html?pagewanted=all</p>
<p>Fined for assisting in the illegal sale of prescription drugs online.</p>	<p>DOJ: "This investigation is about the patently unsafe, unlawful, importation of prescription drugs by Canadian on-line pharmacies, with Google's knowledge and assistance, into the United States, directly to U.S. consumers." http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2011/August/11-dag-1078.html</p> <p>NYT: "Google will pay \$500 million to settle federal government charges that it has knowingly shown illegal ads for fraudulent Canadian pharmacies in the United States, the Justice Department announced on Wednesday." http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/08/24/google-reaches-500-million-settlement-with-government/</p>
<p>Fined for hacking in to people's personal information through their web browser.</p>	<p>FTC: "Google placed a certain advertising tracking cookie on the computers of Safari users who visited sites within Google's DoubleClick advertising network, although Google had previously told these users they would automatically be opted out of such tracking, as a result of the default settings of the Safari browser used in Macs, iPhones and iPads." http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2012/08/google.shtm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily Caller: "Google to pay FTC \$22.5 million fine for Safari browser hack" http://dailycaller.com/2012/08/09/google-to-pay-ftc-22-5-million-for-safari-hack/ • Yahoo Finance: "FTC hits Google with \$22.5 million fine over Safari hacks" http://finance.yahoo.com/news/ftc-hits-google-22-5-161529100.html • GigaOM: "FTC hits Google with \$22.5 million fine over Safari hacks" http://gigaom.com/2012/08/09/ftc-hits-google-with-22-5-million-fine-over-safari-hacks/
<p>Would you trust this company?</p> <p>Then why trust Google?</p>	
<p>Google is under investigation on four continents and in six U.S. states.</p>	<p>Investigations in six U.S. states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forbes: A bi-partisan letter from U.S. Senators Kohl and Lee notes that six states (Texas, New York, California, Ohio, Mississippi, and Oklahoma) have opened "full-scale investigations" into Google's alleged antitrust violations. http://www.forbes.com/sites/scottcleland/2011/12/20/implications-of-senators-call-for-google-antitrust-probe/

	<p>Investigations on four continents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. North America: The U.S. FTC is investigating Google for antitrust concerns (http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/09/19/f-t-c-still-expects-to-resolve-google-antitrust-inquiry-by-years-end/) 2. South America: The Argentinian Competition Commission is investigating Google’s search and search advertising services (http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-04-27/google-says-it-s-being-investigated-in-argentina-korea.html) 3. Asia: The South Korea FTC is investigating Google has blocked competitors in the mobile-search market (http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-04-27/google-says-it-s-being-investigated-in-argentina-korea.html) 4. Europe: The European Commission is investigating Google for abuse of dominance (http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/22/technology/eu-antitrust-chief-warns-over-google-talks.html)
<p>When law enforcement has tried to rein Google in, the company has denied, delayed and ignored authorities.</p>	<p>WSJ: Texas AG Greg Abbott said Google withheld documents by asserting attorney-client privilege, without meeting the burden of proving that privilege applies. http://professional.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304898704577480650238918524.html?mg=reno64-wsj</p> <p>WSJ: The FCC fined Google \$25,000 for obstructing its investigation into data collected from unencrypted Wi-Fi networks for its street-mapping service. http://professional.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304356604577344171454221422.html?mg=reno64-wsj</p> <p>NYT: Former Connecticut AG Richard Blumenthal said that he and other AGs opened investigations into Google but Google resisted cooperating. http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/23/technology/google-privacy-inquiries-get-little-cooperation.html?pagewanted=all&_moc.semityn.www</p> <p>Reuters: Google did not delete data collected from unsecured wireless networks during its Street View project as it had promised. http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/07/27/net-us-google-data-britain-idUSBRE86QOXQ20120727</p> <p>Precursor Blog: “Google's Growing Record of Obstruction of Justice” http://precursorblog.com/content/googles-growing-record-obstruction-justice</p> <p>Google Monitor: “Maximum administrative pecuniary penalty is under consideration for Google’s systematic obstruction of [K]FTC investigation” http://googlemonitor.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Hankook-Ilbo-Jan-4-2012-Maximum-Fine-Considered-for-Google1.pdf</p> <p>CNIL: CNIL stated that Google’s responses to questions are “often incomplete.” http://www.cnil.fr/english/news-and-events/news/article/cnil-sends-an-additional-questionnaire-on-googles-new-privacy-policy-due-to-insufficient-answers/</p>
<p>So when Google promises to treat consumers and websites fairly—and obey the laws that protect consumers—remember to ask this question:</p> <p>CAN GOOGLE BE TRUSTED?</p>	

