

# LEXCLAW

## Computer Fraud and Abuse Act

**In Force** Jurisdiction: **United States (Federal)** | Effective: **1986-10-16**

**Translation Notice:** This law is available in official English.

### Overview

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Status</b>
United States (Federal)	<b>In Force</b>
<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Sector Applicability</b>
1986-10-16	cross-sector
<b>Enforcement Body</b>	<b>Source</b>
Criminal: up to 10 years imprisonment for first offense, up to 20 years for repeat offenses	<a href="https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=(title:18%20section:1030%20edition:prelim)">https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=(title:18%20section:1030%20edition:prelim)</a>

The CFAA is the primary US federal law criminalizing unauthorized computer access and computer-related fraud. It applies to any "protected computer" — essentially any computer connected to the internet. Organizations use it to pursue civil remedies against hackers and insiders who exceed authorized access. The law has been controversial for its broad scope and has been used in cases ranging from nation-state hacking to employee misuse of employer systems.

### Penalties & Enforcement

Criminal: up to 10 years imprisonment for first offense, up to 20 years for repeat offenses; Civil: compensatory damages, injunctive relief; DOJ prosecution

### Compliance Checklist

Requirement Area	Action Required	Status
Governance	Appoint responsible officer / CISO	<input type="checkbox"/> To Do
Risk Assessment	Conduct annual cybersecurity risk assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> To Do
Incident Response	Establish and test incident response plan	<input type="checkbox"/> To Do
Incident Reporting	Implement regulatory notification procedures	<input type="checkbox"/> To Do
Technical Controls	Implement required technical security measures	<input type="checkbox"/> To Do
Vendor Management	Assess and manage third-party cyber risks	<input type="checkbox"/> To Do
Training	Deliver security awareness training to staff	<input type="checkbox"/> To Do
Audit	Schedule and conduct compliance audit	<input type="checkbox"/> To Do

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