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**Testimony Before the  
House Committee on Oversight and Government  
Reform**

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Good morning Chairman Waxman, Ranking Member Davis and distinguished members of the committee.

My name is Robert Boback and I am Chief Executive Officer of Tiversa, a Pennsylvania-based company that provides information technology and investigation services that help protect organizations, government agencies and individual consumers from the disclosure and illicit use of sensitive, confidential, and personal information on peer-to-peer file sharing, or “P2P”, networks.

I wish to extend our most sincere appreciation for inviting us to testify on this very important issue today. And I also want to applaud the Chairman for calling this important hearing and this committee’s previous legislation and work on this topic.

While the Internet is a true boon to our society and economy, there are critical personal privacy and national security issues that need to be addressed seriously, urgently and with the immediate intent to find solutions.

These privacy and security threats are caused by the inadvertent misuse of P2P file sharing software, which Tiversa estimates has been installed on over 450 million computers worldwide. P2P file sharing is one of the most powerful technologies created in recent years, however, as with the world wide web, it is not without inherent risks.

P2P technology provides an efficient way for people to share files with each other. Essentially, the technology uses the muscle power of the computers that it connects and allows people to share files directly with each other. When files are shared directly between two P2P users, this is called decentralized file sharing. This means the files do not go through any central computer server in the middle of the exchange.