



Bulletin: magicJack Lawful Interception

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The Office of Investigative Technology (ST) has received numerous inquiries regarding law enforcement's ability to conduct judicial intercepts on communications of a target utilizing magicJack. magicJack is a computer accessory that, in combination with telephony service from YMax Corporation, provides Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service. When the magicJack device is connected to a USB port of a computer with an active broadband internet connection, the subscriber is able to place and receive telephone calls to/from any individual anywhere in the world via the computer. Subscribers can also connect conventional household telephones or "soft phones" (e.g., headphones/speakers and a microphone) to the magicJack device to make or receive telephone calls, as long as the magicJack device is connected to a computer that is powered on and has an active broadband internet connection.

When an individual subscribes to magicJack, they are prompted to select an area code and number from a pool of available listings within the United States and Canada. These choices are not restricted to the actual location where the magicJack subscriber is located. For example, a person in Los Angeles, California, could select a (917) (New York, New York) based phone number and all calls made by this subscriber using magicJack would appear to originate from the (917) area code, regardless of where the device was physically located.

Additional features of the magicJack service include voicemail and call forwarding. When a caller leaves a voicemail for the magicJack subscriber, the subscriber will be notified via the e-mail address that he/she used during the subscription process that a message is waiting. When the call forwarding feature is enabled, subscribers can forward all calls made to the magicJack number to any mobile, home, or business number, to include international numbers, specified by the subscriber. The use of these features do not require the computer to be on, the magicJack device to be connected to the computer, or that the computer have an active internet connection.

YMax Corporation has partnered with Intelleg Communications as a Trusted Third Party to provide a CALEA compliant interception capability in support of pen register and Title III court orders. All magicJack calls, regardless of the location of the subscriber, are routed through a central gateway in the United States. Therefore, any call made via magicJack, regardless of physical location of the device, can be intercepted pursuant to a federal or state court order.

Investigators and analysts can readily identify magicJack subscribers based on a phone number assignment to YMax Corporation. For example, a fonefinder (www.fonefinder.net) lookup on a magicJack number assigned to the (703) area code would identify the telecommunications service provider as "YMax Communications Corp of Virginia-VA." Administrative subpoenas should be directed

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to YMax Corporation requesting basic subscriber information and call detail records. Call detail records will provide the date, start time, stop time, number dialed, and IP address information where the user logged on to the internet for each call record. In addition to subscriber and call detail records, it is extremely important that investigators request IP address login history for the magicJack account to help identify the geographic area(s) where the device is being used.

All domestic T2S2 system manufacturers used by DEA have developed an interface that allows their systems to receive intercepted magicJack communications. Some T2S2 platforms may require a specific software patch if their system has not received a recent upgrade. Investigators should coordinate with their Division Technical Operations Groups prior to obtaining a court order to ensure their T2S2 system has the appropriate upgrades in place. All subpoenas, court orders, and other legal demands can be served to YMAX Communications at the following address:

YMax Corporation
Attn: Lorraine Fancher
5700 Georgia Ave
West Palm Beach, FL 33405
561-586-3380
fax number for subpoenas is 888-762-2120
Lorraine.Fancher@ymaxcorp.com



Office of Investigative Technology Points of Contact
STIT Unit Chief John Zaginailoff, 703-495-6518
STI Acting Section Chief Anthony Benedetto, 703-495-6526

Authorized by:
Fred S. Ganem, Deputy Assistant Administrator (ST)

March 2010