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Daniel J. Weitzner is the Founding Director of the MIT Internet Policy Research Initiative holds the 3Com Founders Principal Research Scientist named position at the MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Lab. He teaches Internet public policy in MIT's Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department.

From 2011-2012, Weitzner was the United States Deputy Chief Technology Officer for Internet Policy in the White House, where he led initiatives on online privacy, cybersecurity, Internet copyright, and trade policies to promote the free flow of information. Weitzner was a member of the 2008 Obama-Biden Presidential Transition Team.

Weitzner has been a leader in the development of Internet public policy from its inception, making fundamental contributions to the successful fight for strong online free expression protection in the United States Supreme Court, and crafting laws that provide protection against government surveillance of email and web browsing data. His work on US legislation defining clear liability and responsibility for Internet Edge Providers laid the foundations for social media services and supporting the global free flow of information online.

Weitzner's computer science research has pioneered the development of Accountable Systems architecture to enable computational treatment of legal rules and automated compliance auditing. At the World Wide Web Consortium, he led the development of security and privacy standards, and Linked Data architectures now used to make data on the Web easier to analyze. While at MIT he launched the Web Science Research Initiative with Tim Berners-Lee, Wendy Hall, Nigel Shadbolt and James Hendler, a cross-disciplinary research initiative promoting research on the technical and social impact of the Web.

Before joining MIT, Weitzner was founder and Deputy Director of the Center for Democracy and Technology, and Deputy Policy Director of the Electronic Frontier Foundation. He has testified before the United States Congress, the European Commission, and leading international bodies.

Weitzner has a law degree from Buffalo Law School, and a B.A. in Philosophy from Swarthmore College. His writings have appeared in Science magazine, the Yale Law Review, Communications of the ACM, the Washington Post, Wired Magazine and Social Research along with various academic research journals.

He is recipient of the International Association of Privacy Professionals Leadership Award (2013), the Electronic Frontier Foundation Pioneer Award (2016), was named a Fellow of the National Academy for Public Administration (2019), is a Senior Non-Resident Fellow at that German Marshall Fund, and is a member of Council on Foreign Relations.

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