

Irish regulator fines Facebook for privacy law violations

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Facebook's Meta logo sign is seen at the company headquarters in Menlo Park, Calif., on, Oct. 28, 2021. Ireland's privacy watchdog has fined Meta, 17 million euros, or about \$19 million, for violating Europe's privacy law. The regulator, the Data Protection Commission, has been investigating how Meta Platforms Inc. complied with the requirements of the law, known as General Data Protection Regulation, in how it handled personal data in 12 data breach notifications between June and December 2018. The agency said Tuesday, March 15, 2022 that it found that Meta didn't have the right measures in place to show it could

protect EU users' data. Meta said the fine is about record keeping practices from 2018 that it has since updated, not a failure to protect people's information.
Credit: AP Photo/Tony Avelar, File

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"This fine is about record keeping practices from 2018 that we have since updated, not a failure to protect people's information," the company said in an emailed statement. "We take our obligations under the GDPR seriously, and will carefully consider this decision as our processes continue to evolve."

Under GDPR, the Irish regulator leads cross-border data privacy cases for big tech companies that have their European headquarters in Dublin. It has investigated Meta for a number of data and privacy issues and fined the company's WhatsApp communications service 225 million euros, or \$267 million at the time, in September, for another GDPR violation.

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