

Facebook hit with three privacy investigations for horribly abusing the public, in a single day

Zack Whittaker@zackwhittaker /

Third time lucky — unless you're [Facebook](#).

The social networking giant was hit Thursday by a trio of investigations over its privacy practices following a particularly tumultuous month of security lapses and privacy violations — the latest in a string of embarrassing and damaging breaches at the company, much of its own doing.

First came [a probe](#) by the Irish data protection authority looking into the breach of “hundreds of millions” of Facebook and Instagram user passwords that were stored in plaintext on its servers. The company will be investigated [under the European GDPR data protection law](#), which could lead to fines of up to four percent of its global annual revenue for the infringing year — already some several billions of dollars.

Then, Canadian authorities confirmed that the beleaguered social networking giant [broke its strict privacy laws](#), reports TechCrunch's Natasha Lomas. The Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada said it plans to take Facebook to

federal court to force the company to correct its “serious contraventions” of Canadian privacy law. The findings came [in the aftermath of the Cambridge Analytica scandal](#), which vacuumed up more than 600,000 profiles of Canadian citizens.

Lastly, and slightly closer to home, Facebook was hit by its third investigation — this time by New York attorney general Letitia James. The state chief law enforcer is looking into the recent “unauthorized collection” of 1.5 million user email addresses, which Facebook used for profile verification, but inadvertently also scraped their contact lists.

“It is time Facebook is held accountable for how it handles consumers’ personal information,” said James [in a statement](#). “Facebook has repeatedly demonstrated a lack of respect for consumers’ information while at the same time profiting from mining that data.”

Facebook spokesperson Jay Nancarrow said the company is “in touch with the New York State attorney general’s office and are responding to their questions on this matter.”

You might think a trifecta of terrible news would be crushing for the social network. Alas, its stock is up close to 6 percent at market close, adding some \$40 billion to its value.