ROBOCALLS:
HUMANITY
STRIKES BACK

DEFCON23

NEEDED:
BRILLIANT THINKERS,
GREAT MINDS,
AND GENERALLY
GROUNDBREAKING IDEAS

An FTC Contest, Open to the Public

$50,000 in total prizes

The challenge is ON.

Qualifying Phase Closes
June 15, 2015 at 7p PT

FTC.GOV/STRIKEBACK

MORE DETAILS ON THE BACK SIDE
**Robocalls: Humanity Strikes Back**, asks contestants to create a technical solution for consumers that identifies unwanted robocalls received on landlines or mobile phones, and blocks and forwards those calls to a honeypot. A qualifying phase is ongoing and runs through June 15, 2015 at 7 pm PT; five finalists will move on to the second and final phase at DEF CON 23 on Aug. 6-9, 2015.

How big is the problem?

Since the convergence of the telephone system with the internet, there has been an explosion of illegal robocalls. Voice over IP (VoIP) technology decreases the cost to place calls and enables robocallers to blast out millions in a matter of minutes, while also hiding their identities through caller ID spoofing.

The FTC receives approximately 150,000 consumer complaints regarding robocalls each month.

Many telemarketers who use robocalls also offer fraudulent products or services such as "credit card interest rate reduction services," "extended auto warranties," or "free cruise vacations."

New technologies also facilitate telephony denial of service attacks, which have increasingly targeted crucial institutions like hospitals and law enforcement agencies in an attempt to extort money.

The FTC has taken aggressive action against robocallers, bringing more than 100 cases to enforce the Do Not Call regulations. The agency has stopped entities responsible for billions of illegal robocalls.

In 2012, the FTC challenged the American public to find a way to block illegal robocalls. The FTC received more than 800 submissions. One of the winners of the challenge, Aaron Foss, founded a company called Nomorobo, which has blocked millions of robocalls for consumers.

About the FTC + Telemarketing

The Federal Trade Commission protects consumers from anticompetitive, deceptive, and unfair business practices. The FTC is an independent, bipartisan federal agency headed by five Commissioners.

The FTC enforces the National Do Not Call Registry and the Telemarketing Sales Rule, both of which protect consumers from abusive telemarketing practices.

If you are on the National Do Not Call Registry, it is generally illegal for a telemarketer to contact you unless you have an existing business relationship with that telemarketer.

Under the Telemarketing Sales Rule, it is generally illegal for a telemarketer to call you with a pre-recorded message ("robocall") unless you give the telemarketer your express written consent to receive a pre-recorded call.

**MORE INFO AT FTC.GOV/STRIKEBACK**