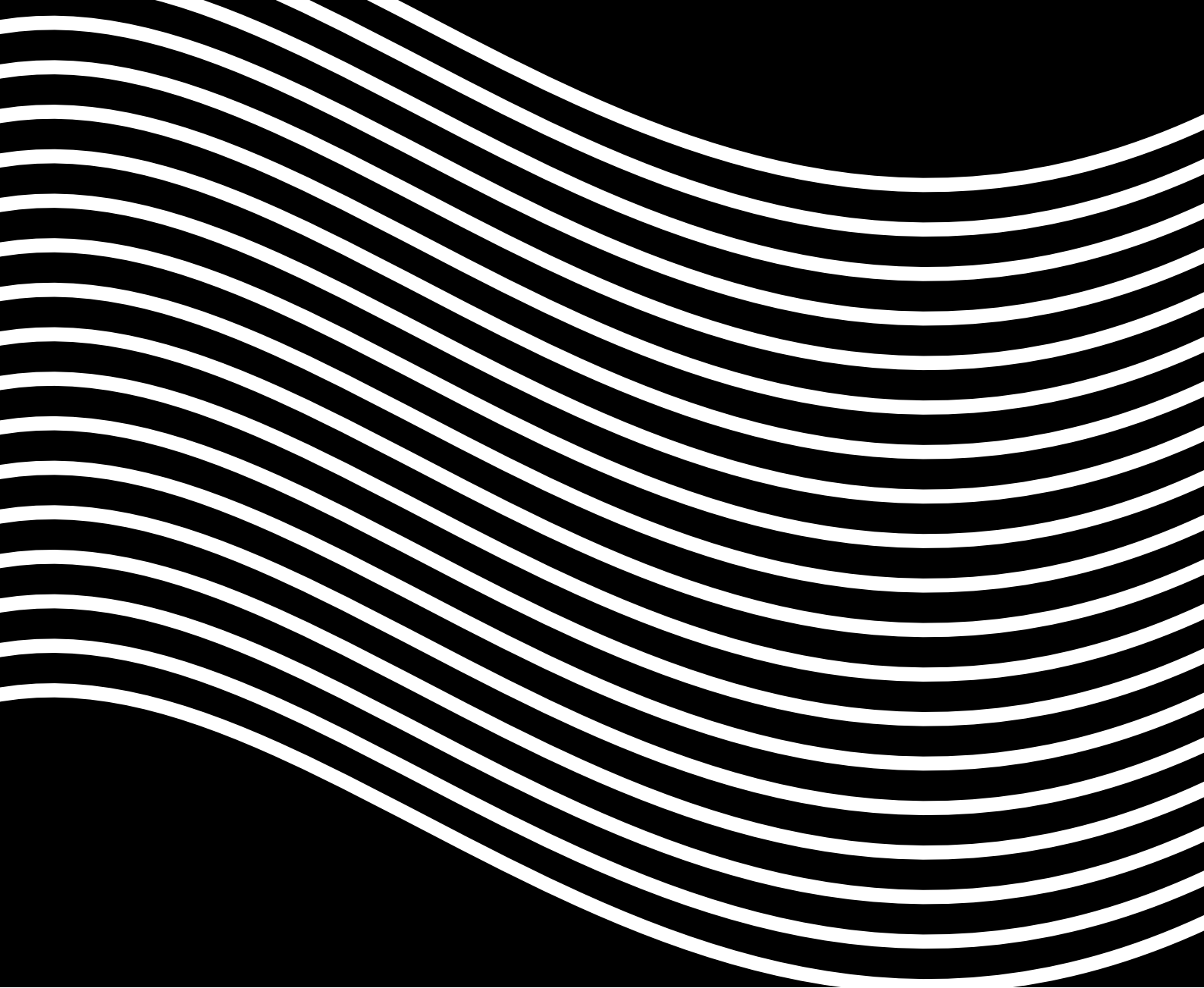




Off the Record | 5 October 2026

DRUNK WITH POWER

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an LG TV's terms and conditions.*

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Off the Record: Drunk with Power

Some researchers reportedly got drunk before accepting an LG TV's terms and conditions. They were dealing with a legal problem, not celebrating a new television.

Before examining what the TV was doing on the network, the team realised that the terms they were about to accept could restrict the kind of security testing they intended to conduct.

The thinking was simple: if nobody could honestly remember what they had agreed to, perhaps nobody had truly agreed to anything.

It makes for a brilliant story. It is also probably not the legal strategy your lawyer would recommend. Drinking before clicking "Accept" does not automatically cancel a contract.

The researchers were investigating what an LG smart TV was doing behind the scenes. Their testing involved security experts, network analysis, lawyers, and the sort of technical equipment that makes an ordinary television feel slightly overqualified for the living room.

According to the investigation, the TV appeared to collect information from its surroundings and communicate with LG's systems. The researchers also said that, under their test conditions, audio captured while the TV was in standby could later be uploaded when the network connection returned.

LG disputes those findings and says its TVs do not continuously record people's conversations. The company says its voice features operate through specific settings and wake-word functions.

The old saying was that walls have ears. Today, the wall has LG Smart TV

The lesson is not to throw the television out of the window. Before the next movie begins:

- Review the privacy and voice settings.
- Turn off features you do not use.
- Check personalised advertising and content-recognition options.
- Keep the television system updated.
- Put smart-home devices on a separate guest network where possible.
- Do not assume that standby means completely offline.

And perhaps keep a glass of water nearby when reading the terms and conditions.

At its core, this takes us back to the basics of cybersecurity: confidentiality, integrity, and availability, the CIA triad. In this case, the concern is the confidentiality of household data, the integrity of devices and the home network, and the availability of services if a compromised TV disrupts other connected devices.

Well, Boss here. I'm off the record.

I read the terms on mine sober. It was worse.

Gamers Nexus made allegations about its testing, while LG disputed the interpretation of the findings. The technical debate continues, but the privacy lesson applies to smart TVs generally.