



**TECHNET**  
THE VOICE OF THE  
INNOVATION ECONOMY

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## **TechNet Thanks Governor Jerry Brown for Signing Digital Accounts Legislation into Law**

*Sacramento* — TechNet, the national, bipartisan network of innovation economy CEOs and senior executives, today applauded Governor Jerry Brown for signing legislation into law that provides guidance and clarity for handling digital accounts after a user has died. The legislation (AB 691) was sponsored by TechNet and authored by Assembly Majority Leader Ian Calderon (D-Whittier).

**“Until now, California law was silent on how to handle digital accounts after a loved one has passed,”** said John Doherty, vice president and general counsel of TechNet. **“This has led to confusion and frustration for individuals trying to administer the estates of friends and family members. This important legislation gives individuals clear guidance for dealing with the email and social media accounts of loved ones who have passed away, and it does so in a way that balances privacy concerns with the administrative requirements of estate planning. TechNet thanks Governor Brown for signing this legislation into law and Majority Leader Calderon for his leadership on this critically important issue.”**

AB 691 balances the privacy rights of all parties by:

- 1) Requiring a showing of consent of the user in order to gain access to the content of any non-public communications; and
- 2) Creating a mechanism to easily and quickly transfer less sensitive information necessary to administer an estate to the appointed representative.

### **About TechNet**

*TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. TechNet’s diverse membership includes dynamic startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents more than two million employees in the fields of information technology, e-commerce, advanced energy, biotechnology, venture*

*capital, and finance. TechNet has offices in Washington, D.C., Silicon Valley, San Francisco, Sacramento, Austin, Boston, Seattle, Albany, and Tallahassee.*

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