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COUNSEL TO GREAT COMPANIES

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Cybersecurity & Privacy Rules in China

-- Regulatory and Corporate Perspectives

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I. Regulatory Environment

- (1) Background:
 - Approximately 100 regulations, administrative measures and local policies directly or indirectly related to Internet information security and privacy issues;
 - No comprehensive Cybersecurity Law issued in China yet, like the FISMA in the United States;
 - No comprehensive Privacy Law issued in the country; and
 - Working diligently by the government on the drafting the laws and regulations governing the areas; New positive development, such as the recent rule, Circular No. 11 of 2014 by the Supreme People's Court that became effective on October 10, 2014.

I. Regulatory Environment

- (2) Major New Developments:
 - Circular No. 11 of 2014 has formally provided the legal ground for bringing legal actions at Chinese civil courts under direct claims of invading of personal information security and privacy;
 - 2013 Guidelines for Information Security Technology of Personal Information Protection within the Public and Commercial Systems have set forth the technical standards for the industry;
 - Circular No. 33 of 2014 by the State Council strengthens the content control over Internet; Certain other rules imposed restrictions on messaging app application system; and
 - State IC Industry Development and Promotion Outlines, issued in June 2014, set the 350 billion Yuan revenue goal by 2015 with 20% increase in each following year; Major reason behind: Ensure the control over information security technology.

I. Regulatory Environment

- (3) Characteristics:
- Enhancing the protection over privacy;
- Tightening the control over cybersecurity;
- How to strike the balance of Protection v. Control;
- Governmental initiatives and commercial opportunities over software and hardware, chips, cloud computing, IOT, and other related industries.

II. Corporate Trend & Suggestions

- (1) Creativity v. Restrictions;
- (2) More cooperation with Chinese companies via contractual agreements; Less establishment of foreign invested Chinese legal entities;
- (3) More licensing than sale distributions; and
- (4) Innovative technology deal structures under conventional foreign invested corporate structures in China.

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