

Sri Lanka data protection laws seen inadequate

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ECONOMYNEXT – Digital commerce in Sri Lanka is growing along with greater internet penetration but data protection for consumers is still inadequate, a forum was told.

“Sri Lanka does not have the legal regime to prevent information being shared wrongfully,” said Thishya Weragoda, an Attorney at Law of the Supreme Court Sri Lanka.

“I have right, when I give vendors data, to ask my data to be protected,” he told a forum held by the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka to mark the World Consumer Rights Day on Wednesday, March 15.

“Till the law comes, we have to demand that traders not to abuse our information,” Weragoda said.

Consumers have to provide personal information when buying online such as downloading music, he said.

“We give out all our personal details – there’s much value in that information,” Weragoda told the forum which was on the consumer rights in the digital age. “Vendors know what our preferences are.”

IPS Deputy Director Dushni Weerakoon said 30% of the Sri Lankan population is connected to the internet today. (COLOMBO, March 16, 2017)