

Section 8

# Machine-injected consent

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Machine-injected consent

## A checked box. Whose action?

### Context & source limits

In declining reimbursement, Steam Support replies preserved in the archive take the position that the account holder created the API key and, by checking the box, accepted the terms.

The support response attributes the key to the account holder. The question is whether the record establishes who actually created it.

In the observed API-key hijack pattern, however, the victim never saw or navigated to the API key creation page. The consent field is submitted by a script executing a headless POST with the stolen session cookie.

Under GDPR Article 7 and Article 4(11), consent must be a freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous indication of the data subject's wishes. The authors' position is that a terms-acceptance field submitted by a hostile script with a stolen cookie, with no page shown to the account holder, cannot meet that definition. Whether it does is for the supervisory authority.

Forensic Payload Analysis: Key Registration

POST <https://steamcommunity.com/dev/ajaxregisterkey>

// Request Payload (Injected via hijacking script)

```
{  
  "agreeToTerms": "agreed", <-- machine-injected, no human interaction  
  "domain": "localhost", ← not validated — any value accepted, including localhost  
  "sessionId": "8f0d8ef763ab2140bf89de2a"  
}
```

**The question for the supervisory authority:** where the account holder never clicked the consent field, whether the terms-acceptance recorded against the account meets Article 7's requirement of a freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous indication of the data subject's wishes, and whether Steam Support may rely on it to decline a claim.

Source: request shape of key registration as reconstructed from the public endpoint and from hijack reports preserved in the evidence archive ([searchable build of 2026-09-17](#)) · the session identifier shown is a placeholder, not a captured value.

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