

# Facebook Fine Could Total Billions if FTC Talks Lead to a Deal

*The New York Times* is **reporting** that Facebook and the Federal Trade Commission are discussing a settlement over privacy violations that could amount to a record, multibillion-dollar fine, according to three people with knowledge of the talks.

Sources told the *Times* that the company and the FTC's consumer protection and enforcement staff have been in negotiations over a financial penalty for claims that Facebook violated a 2011 privacy consent decree with the agency, according to reporter **Cecilia Kang**.

"The F.T.C. began its investigation into Facebook's mishandling of data after *The New York Times* reported in March 2018 that the information of 87 million users had been harvested by a British political consulting firm, Cambridge Analytica, without their permission," writes Kang.

**Read the *NY Times* article.**