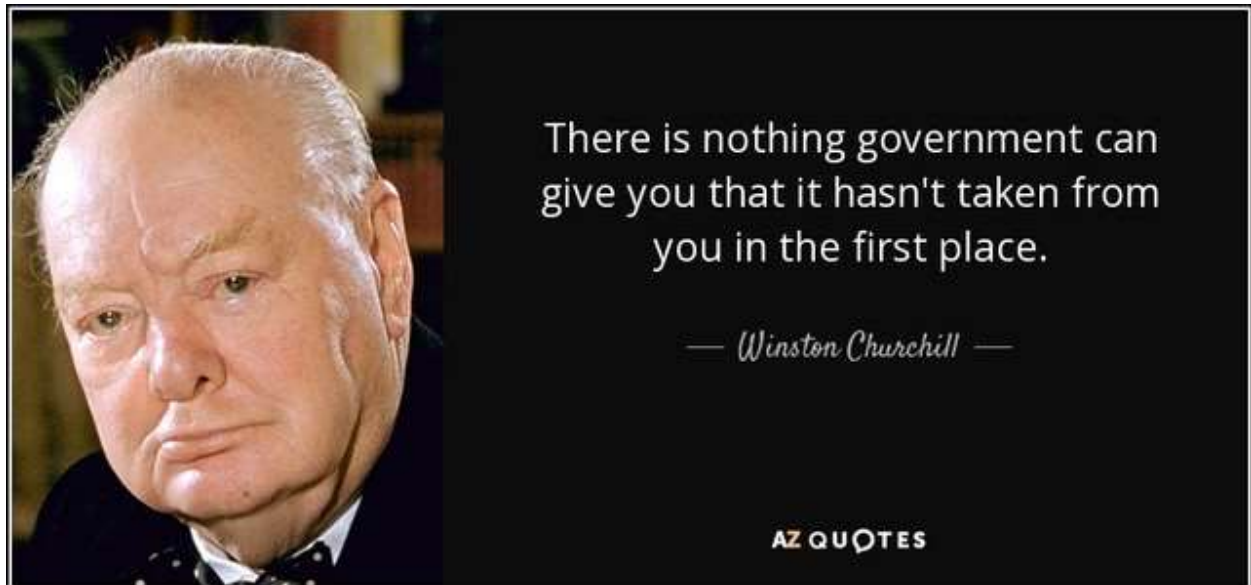


I hope my comments and your questions will not be subject to any surveillance today, but, if you find any electronic devices around, you might let your neighbor know as to temper their comments.

A couple of quotes from some famous leaders may be appropriate to lead into this topic:



The second was a statement made by Thomas Jefferson in 1798 that Snowden alluded to and was: “In questions of power, then, let no more be heard of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution.”

The National Security Agency: What does it do?

April 13, 2018

You are John Feighner. In fact you are John O. Feighner, born a US citizen. Like most Americans, you frequently update your entertainment resources by buying a new TV. John decides to look into one of the great Amazon deals and buys a new curved TV that will take up most of his entertainment wall. In three to four days, his purchase arrives and John has it installed. While on Amazon, he also noticed a

great deal on a home computer and also pulled that trigger. It also arrives with the same shipment. This allowed, John to enjoy the benefits of this great country's freedom to spend your disposable income to your liking. What John does not know, is that our vast security network has evidenced that a John Feigner is a suspected terrorist evidencing suspicious activity and has a history of international travel with timeshares in various international cities. Our John, while not a wanted terrorist, does travel internationally and, also, owns a few timeshares in foreign countries. Well, let me tell you how it works. John's new TV and Computer left the Amazon shipping locations and went to a NSA approved site for a protocol with a special program, an NSA task force called ANT, which installed a device into both the computer and the TV then continued it in route to John. John does not, also, know that, through a NSA program called "Prism", that has allowed his wife, Margy, and his cell phones to be tapped. John owns a nice late model BMW, yet, has no idea, through another NSA program, which allowed access through the "on-call" features, to monitor the conversations that take place in John's car and where the car has traveled. So, what is John experiencing unknowingly? He and Margy have had a couple of "TV evenings" with their new television, whereupon, they were being videoed and recorded with all stored in a vast database and run thru multiple analysis programs. Margy asked on one of these evenings, "Are you going to Quest, Friday and what is the topic?" John replies, "Oh that is Frank's paper and it is on the NSA". A day later, a fellow Questor called John's cell and asked the same question. John, later that afternoon was in his car driving to a deposition and was asked the same question by an associate. John also replied to a friend on his new home computer that he would be going to Quest Friday and the paper would be on the NSA. He commented, it's Frank's paper, and it might be like the movie "Enemy of the State". Well, where are we and from who's perspective? The artificial intelligence programs running in the surveillance community pick up the question from John's cell, from home, his home computer and his car conversation. The artificial intelligence logic understands one of the questions. It seems that al-Qaida trainees normally ask during training, "What does the NSA do?" Those AI programs also pick up

the name, Margy, Frank and whoever the associate that was traveling in John's car, plus, they want to know a bit more about this Quest organization and its other members. The AI programs are also running facial recognition on the faces in the pictures in John's entertainment room plus his neighbors that were over for a Netflix movie the other night. **Will John ever hear anything from this?** I don't know. **Will John's information eventually just fade away?** I don't know because it is sorted and stored in a huge data base for some future indication that points to retrieval. **Do you think the drone that delivered John's computer also videoed John's house?** Maybe not. **Is this surveillance activity what was originally intended for the NSA?** Probably not.

Well, depending on where you are coming from, you are glad someone is watching your back, or, perhaps, you may feel your privacy is being uncomfortably abused. It's a matter of perspective!

Remember the NSA is extremely cautious not to break the law and the law says that you should have your privacy protected. Unless, unless, unless you pose a threat. To who or to what, I am not exactly sure.

Just how vast is the NSA?

- Every single day the NSA intercepts and stores the equivalent of 128 million books. By comparison the Library of Congress has 16 million books.
- Today, it has between 30,000 and 40,000 known employees. In 2013, the last known budget figures reported an annual budget of \$10.8 Billion.
- The NSA has locations known and unknown throughout the US and in several foreign countries, but, little is known about any foreign offices.
- The newest NSA Data Center in Utah uses 1.7 million gallons of water a day. The electric bill is \$40 million a year.
- It is busy around the NSA. Daily, according to the Washington Post, 1.7 billion emails phone calls and other are intercepted.

- Stated by other measures, in just 30 short days, the NSA collected 124.8 billion telephone data items and 97.1 billion computer data items throughout the world.

With the vastness of the NSA just how big is the technology expense?

Twelve years ago, an IRS training document, disclosed that the NSA intercepted wire taps, both domestic and foreign, supplied the information to the DEA and IRS to legally launch criminal investigations on US Citizens. Further, the law enforcement agencies involved were directed to conceal how the investigations began. Between 2005 and 2009, if you were part of the Verizon network and were one of the 120 million subscribers, you had some of your conversations now stored in the dozen or so NSA databases. We now know it was codenamed "Boundless Informant" and used unique software, cloud computing and enormous databases. In one of Snowden's leaked 2014 documents he mentioned the code name, "Penetrating Hard Targets". It is an \$80 million quantum computing project. Why? Well, to find a number that is the product of two large primes would take conventional computers years to find, which is what normal encryption is based, yet, with a quantum computer, it would be so fast that most encryption would be rendered obsolete. Quantum computing has a heat problem, however, so investment in the D Wave 2000Q was justified, where a computer chip is cooled to a minor 459.6 degrees below Fahrenheit so that quantum computing will be maximized. The NSA is not alone in this as they are joined by Lockheed, Google, NASA and others that choose to remain anonymous. Investment here creates a marriage of the two scientific undertakings of this century, quantum physics and digital computing with endless and unimaginable result. This, by minor example, demonstrates how active the NSA is in technology development and it is probably good that we do not know the full extent.

How was the NSA used in collaboration with other intelligence agencies?

We will probably never know for sure, but, we do know, that in conjunction with the FBI during the ugly and morally incorrect Vietnam years, Journalists, athletes, civil rights leaders, Senators,

religious leaders, entertainers and others were examples of likely illegal privacy invasion. Even before the Vietnam War, but after Nixon resigned, it was found that JFK had used the NSA in collaboration with the CIA to assassinate Fidel Castro. As we have now learned, likely even many of you, now have your communications stored someplace under the NSA's vast umbrella. I hope what you said will never be miss interpreted.

William Hartwell, VP, US Federal Government Area, Ribbon Communications, Inc.; formerly Sonus Networks and graduated Bradley University and friend of former Quester, Dr. Greg Schmitt, comments:

“The NSA, is #1 of the big five in the Intelligence Community, including CIA, DIA, NRO and NGA. Sometimes the FBI is also included in the Intelligence Community, but as a general rule they do not operate outside the USA on their mission. The other five have a global reach and global mission for sure. Information technology security is high on their priority list from both the perspective of offense and defense!

Overall, the NSA most likely garners at least 33% of the information technology budget in the Intelligence Community and is the major sponsor of one of the most important Cyber Security certifications called Common Criteria. Cyber Security spend across the US Federal Government will probably top \$25B in 2018!”

So, what do we know about the NSA?

The NSA was established in 1952, by Harry S. Truman to decipher coded communications in World War II. Today a far cry from a handful of Navajos deciphering code from German communications intercept.

At the time the public knew nothing of any such activities, and to make sure, the agency was originally named “No Such Agency”. Since its focus was deciphering coded communications, I guess what immediately comes to mind is, “what happened?”. It really came about under Truman because the Army

failed to centralize intelligence with the shared interests of the Department of State, the CIA and FBI.

One can begin to see its pervasive intent at its infancy in 1952. Not the least was the fact that the Executive Branch and Congress kind of became the last to know and it honked them off.

Now, the NSA is huge, operating well beyond its initial purpose and is in the business of worldwide mass data collection. Like a lot of government initiatives, the farther it gets away from its origin, the more confusing, the more massive and the more clandestine and pervasive it becomes. The parent agency is the Department of Defense. Most think this is centralized and operates in Fort Meade, Maryland, which is does, with now, operations, known and unknown, throughout the world. It has been used legitimately or illegitimately, morally or immorally to "read almost anyone's communications". Sort of a forerunner was the so called "Black Box, which was an off shoot of MI-8 in 1919, whereby, the US Army had a Cipher Bureau. It was disguised as a NY City commercial code company. Its purpose was to break diplomatic communications of other nations, and did so in collaboration with an arrangement with Western Union. This clandestine activity of the Black Box was halted in 1929. After WW II and going into the now blemished Vietnam War, the agency was used in many ways, that this room, would likely question and may morally judge. Essentially, anyone of importance, who was critical of this unjust war, was tapped.

An NSA mission statement titled "SIGINT Strategy 2012-2016" affirmed that the NSA had plans for continued expansion of surveillance activities. Their stated goal was to "dramatically increase mastery of the global network" and to acquire adversaries' data from "anyone, anytime, anywhere." Leaked slides revealed in Greenwald's book, "No Place to Hide", released in May 2014, showed that the NSA's stated objective was to "Collect it All," "Process it All," "Exploit it All," "Partner it All," "Sniff it All" and "Know it All."

Jason Bourne's reference to "Treadstone" wasn't far from the truth when you consider that actual names of just a few of the active NSA programs, Sigint, Quantum Hand, Turbine, Loveint, Black Pearl, Muscular, Black Box, and many many more. There are so many code project names within the NSA, it makes Jason Borne's movies pale by comparison.

Let's talk about the Snowden recent history:

Edward Joseph Snowden (born June 21, 1983) is an American computer professional, former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) employee, and former contractor to United States government who copied and leaked classified information from the National Security Agency (NSA) in 2013 without authorization. His disclosures revealed numerous global surveillance programs, many run by the NSA.

While intelligence officials have described his position as a system administrator, Snowden has said he was an infrastructure analyst, which meant that his job was to look for new ways to break into Internet and telephone traffic around the world.

Chronology:

- March 2007, the CIA stationed Snowden with diplomatic cover in Geneva, Switzerland, where he was responsible for maintaining computer-network security.
- In 2009, Snowden began work as a contractor for Dell, which manages computer systems for multiple government agencies.
- In 2011, he returned to Maryland, where he spent a year as lead technologist on Dell's CIA account.
- In March 2012, Dell reassigned Snowden to Hawaii as lead technologist for the NSA's information-sharing office.
- March 12, 2013, the Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper, directly lies under oath to Congress.

- On March 15, 2013, Snowden quits his job at Dell.
- June 10, 2013, Booz Allen terminated Snowden's employment on, one month after he had left the country.
- 6-21-2013, the U.S. Justice Department unsealed charges against Snowden for two counts of the Espionage Act of 1917.
- 6-23-2013, Snowden flies to Russia.
- In March 2014, documents disclosed by Glenn Greenwald writing for "The Intercept" showed the NSA, in cooperation with the GCHQ (Government Communications Headquarters), had plans to infect millions of computers with malware using a program called "TURBINE".
- In July 2014, The Washington Post reports, 90% of those placed under surveillance in the U.S. are ordinary Americans, and are not the intended targets.
- In August 2014 interview, Snowden for the first time disclosed a cyberwarfare program in the works, codenamed "MonsterMind", that would automate detection of a foreign cyberattack, as it began, and automatically fire back. Scary! Snowden commented, "These attacks can be spoofed. You could have someone sitting in China, for example, making it appear that one of these attacks is originating in Russia. And then we end up shooting back and hitting innocent citizens of a Russian city." I agree with Snowden, this might get a little scary!
- 2020, that's how long his permit has been extended to stay in Russia as reported by Snowden's Russian lawyer, Anatoly Kucherena.

What were the turning points along the way for Snowden?

It is hard to understand by the way he was described by former associates. One former NSA co-worker told Forbes that although the NSA was full of smart people, Snowden was "a genius among geniuses," who created a backup system for the NSA that was widely implemented and often pointed out security bugs to the agency.

So was Snowden negatively influenced by some of the events he witnessed?

Snowden described his CIA experience in Geneva as formative, stating that the CIA deliberately got a Swiss banker drunk and encouraged him to drive home. Snowden said that when the banker was arrested, a CIA operative offered to help in exchange for the banker becoming an informant. Ueli Maurer, President of the Swiss Confederation for the year 2013, in June of that year publicly disputed Snowden's claims. "This would mean that the CIA successfully bribed the Geneva police and judiciary. With all due respect, I just can't imagine it," said Maurer. In February 2009, Snowden resigned from the CIA.

Maybe, it was his discovery that NSA was paying U.S. private tech companies for clandestine access to their communications networks without the specific knowledge of Congress. The companies we all use, Verizon, Google, Face Book, Yahoo, etc.

Or, maybe it was the NSA's ability to collect and retain the communications of people in the US, even without a warrant and no hard evidence that a wrong was about to be committed.

Or it could have been Snowden's discovery of the NSA's top-secret black budget, exposing the successes and failures of the 16 spy agencies comprising the U.S. intelligence community, and revealed that the NSA was paying U.S. private tech companies for clandestine access to their communications networks.

His revelation of Black Pearl, a program targeting private networks, showing the NSA was extending beyond its primary mission of national security, may have influenced his thinking.

Maybe a tipping point for Snowden was the NSA agents also spied on their own "love interests," (that's right love interests) a practice NSA employees termed LOVEINT. The NSA was shown to be tracking the online sexual activity of people they termed "radicalizers" in order to discredit them.

Or it could have been, revelations of QUANTUMHAND, a program through which the NSA set up a fake Facebook server to intercept connections.

With all this, he says, his "breaking point" was "seeing the Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper, directly lie on TV."

Snowden has been called a hero, a whistleblower, a dissident, a traitor, and a patriot. His disclosures have fueled debates over mass surveillance, government secrecy, and the balance between national security and information privacy.

Right wrong or indifferent, his revelations have caused every American to weigh in their own mind the cost of privacy over security.

What is our Government leader's perpetual concern over surveillance expansion?

I think Congress and the White House is always disturbed when the NSA, and private contractors, and junior analysts are more privy to information than our leaders overseeing intelligence. While they were dismayed to learn of Bullrun, Muscular, Prism, etc. when the Snowden information was released, it is interesting to note that such an egregious invasion of privacy died down only to now heighten with the Zuckerberg grilling by Congress this week. The Face Book release during the recent election process seem to be more politically charged than the larger invasion that was discovered under Snowden. Go figure!

What is our personal conflict over privacy vs security?

Let's assume for the moment that, you are personally under threat. You have reason to believe that someone is out to harm or end your life. Further, you have access to a resource like the NSA. Would you engage the NSA resources to tell you if they pick up any communication (written, phone, email, etc.) that mentions Frank Johnson or someone who is trying to find things about me. Then, would you provide me that text of the communication and tell me where it came from so I have a better chance of

staying out of harm's way. My guess is that you may choose to invade other's privacy to save your own skin.

While we should not mistrust our government, likely, we do have a duty to study, and not remain flat footed and heed further, the discoveries that Snowden brought to our attention.

CONCLUDING QUESTIONS:

As the network of surveillance expands, do we feel more secure or less secure? Further with this question, do you have a concern of what a future President of the United State may do with this vast database of information?

How much privacy are you willing to give up for terrorist protection? And further, do you feel the current collection is actually deterring actual events?

Have our Constitutional rights to privacy been abused for so many years that it is now meaningless and have been foregone for a higher purpose?

Given that we can drive the kids to school, go to the grocery, dinner, the theatre, work and other venues safely and without threat of harm, yet, with the full knowledge that your conversations are being monitored and you're physically being video recorded, is the tradeoff good with you for the protection from harm or maybe international terrorism?

Could it be that our values of privacy are generational? Our youth and particularly the millennials may well evaluate invasion of privacy with far less severity than our earlier generations as concerns seem to be non-existent with the proliferation of "selfies and Facebook posts" appearing worldwide and other uses of social media?

What do we counsel or kids and grandkids when it comes to surveillance and the need for security vs what principles we have grown up with regarding the rights to privacy?

Do you think Zuckerberg should go to jail for his database release to Cambridge Analytica and his two prior releases to the NSA and the Obama administrations?

And the last question is, do you feel that what the Bush and Obama administrations did with the law to circumvent the individual rights to privacy as guaranteed by the Constitution will create irreparable damage to our future generations?

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Congressional oversight of the NSA is a joke. I should know, I'm in Congress

[Alan Grayson](#)

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