



FOSDEM '20

Brussels

1 & 2 February 2020

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open source

lightning talks

devrooms

8000+ hackers

800+ lectures

RFC 1984:

Or why you should start worrying about encryption backdoors and mass data collection

Esther Payne

Decentralized and Internet Privacy Dev Room

Sunday 2nd February 2020

www.fosdem.org »



Do we need Privacy?

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Humans learn from stories



Io and Argus





What does this myth have to do with nowadays?

- ▶ Branding Argus Panoptes



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What does this myth have to do with nowadays?

- ▶ Branding Argus Panoptes
- ▶ We forgot IO DUH!
- ▶ Can we use the myth, or peacocks as a symbol? Is it appropriate?

1984

▶ George Orwell



1984

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1984

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- ▶ Again people focus on the tech of oppression.
- ▶ Need to focus on the why and who.

- ▶ Brian E. Carpenter of IAB and Fred Baker of IETF wrote a co-statement on cryptographic technology and the internet.

RFC:1984

- ▶ Brian E. Carpenter of IAB and Fred Baker of IETF wrote a co-statement on cryptographic technology and the internet.
- ▶ They felt that there was a need to offer "All Internet Users an adequate degree of privacy"

RFCs

- ▶ What are RFCs?

RFCs

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- ▶ Can any one submit an RFC?



THE CODE IS MORE LIKE "GUIDELINES"

RATHER THAN ACTUAL RULES

quickmeme.com

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- ▶ Changed to BCP in 2015.

"The Internet Architecture Board (IAB) and the Internet Engineering Steering Group (IESG),[...] are concerned by the need for increased protection of international commercial transactions on the Internet, and by the need to offer all Internet users an adequate degree of privacy."

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 - ▶ (c) mandate that private decryption keys should be in the hands of the government or of some other third party; and/or
 - ▶ (d) prohibit the use of cryptology entirely, or permit it only to specially authorized organizations.

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- ▶ Your family using ALL those services.

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- ▶ Political parties collecting Data on Constituents

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- ▶ Palantir being used by ICE to pick up illegal immigrants off the street.

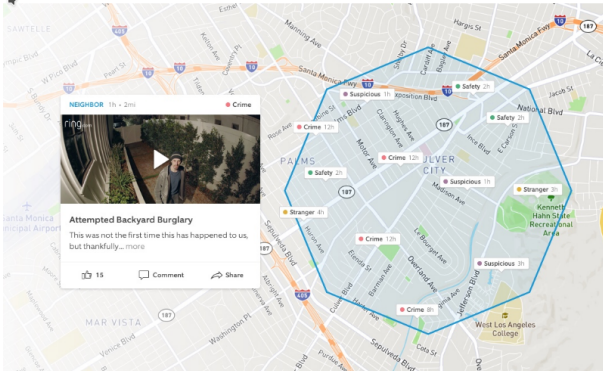
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- ▶ UK government officials are very careless with data.





by Nick | May 8, 2018 | Company, Home Security | 0 comments



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CES 2020: Ring Unveils New Devices and Gives a Sneak Preview of What's to Come This Year

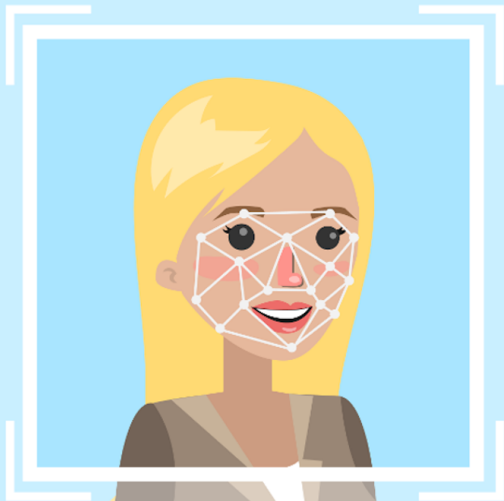
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Family Finds Their Missing Son Thanks to the Neighbors App

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Facial Recognition

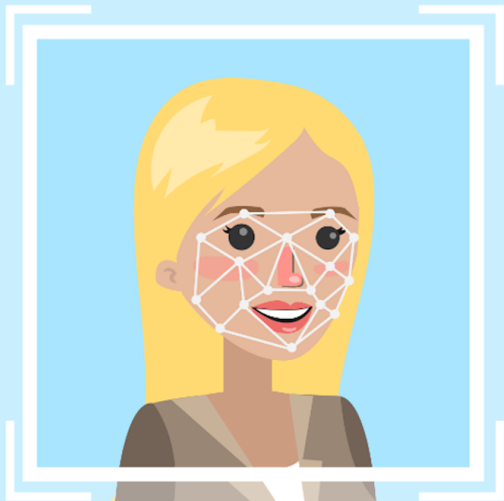
- ▶ Government

Facial Recognition

- ▶ Government
- ▶ Schools

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- ▶ Consumer Products





But Ancestry DNA testing isn't really a threat

- ▶ BuzzFeed Investigation

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But Ancestry DNA testing isn't really a threat

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- ▶ Commercial DNA testing
- ▶ Conclusion: On it's own no. But as part of a possible dataset combined with other metadata?





So do we need Privacy?

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“If all that Americans want is security, they can go to prison. They’ll have enough to eat, a bed and a roof over their heads. But if an American wants to preserve his dignity and his equality as a human being, he must not bow his neck to any dictatorial government.”

— Dwight D. Eisenhower

So do we need Privacy?

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- ▶ Even teenagers don't care. Not true, teenagers are private.
- ▶ We need to give up a little privacy for our security. Do we prefer Freedom?



Is there hope?

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- ▶ Certain Cities in the US banning facial recognition

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- ▶ EU considering 5 year moratorium on Facial Recognition in AI

What can we do?

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- ▶ Build in privacy.
- ▶ Follow privacy focused organisations and people online.
- ▶ Protect your own privacy.
- ▶ Join decentralised networks like Mastodon and Diaspora.

What can we do?

Use stories to help people to empathise and understand.



What can we do?

- ▶ Use stories to help people to empathise and understand.
- ▶ Focus on Io, not Argus Panoptes.



Final thoughts

- ▶ Find ways to frame the dialogue around privacy.

What I spoke about in my day job at Ubucon Europe.

<https://sintra2019.ubucon.org/>

<https://youtu.be/ZVXTojz4dZI>

Ubucon Europe 2019 - RFC 1984 Or why you should start worrying about encryption backdoors and mass data collection.

I even talk about mythology and Peacocks. It's about 40 minutes long.



SINTRA2019.UBUCON.ORG

Ubucon Europe 2019 – Sintra, 10th-13th October

Ubucon is an event organized by the Ubuntu Communities from all around...

Brett Sheffield, and 2 others

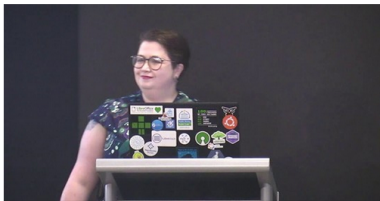
Your post

29th October 2019

I did a talk at a conference in Australia about Ovid, Greek Mythology and also privacy online. So I think there might be something for everybody. Plus there are peacocks.

This isn't a talk where I rant about people using Facebook. Facebook is a very useful tool for families, friends and community.

But Privacy is a complex thing, how do we make ourselves a bit more aware of what the technology does and what risks does it hold? Should we be holding our governments to account more?



YOUTUBE.COM

RFC 1984: Or why you should start worrying about encryption backdoors and mass data collection

Brett Sheffield, and 24 others

25th January 2020

Final thoughts

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- ▶ Use your own culture's stories where possible to help people empathise about the dangers

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- ▶ Use your own culture's stories where possible to help people empathise about the dangers
- ▶ Contact your political representatives
- ▶ Encourage friends and family to contact their representatives



Final thoughts

- ▶ Human rights violations are here now.

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- ▶ It's important to not normalise the virtual panopticon



Use the hashtag #RFC1984

Questions?

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