

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

How do we slay the Hydra of mass surveillance?

Esther Payne

HOPE 2020



Do we need Privacy?

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- ▶ We need to give up a little privacy for our security/health.



Humans learn from stories



Io and Argus







Branding Argus Panoptes

Jeremy Bentham



Michel Foucault

1984

George Orwell

RFC:1984

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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.

Political Threats from the 5 eyes

- ▶ David Cameron and Malcolm Turnbull in 2015 wanted to break encryption
- ▶ Draft Investigatory Powers Bill 2015 in UK and Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Amendment (Data Retention) Act 2015 in Australia.
- ▶ July 2019 and in January 2020 Attorney General William Barr "Going Dark" push to require manufacturers of encrypted devices like iPhones to build in a way for law enforcement to gain access, which detractors call "back doors."
- ▶ NSA gain access to logs of Americans' domestic communications under the USA Freedom Act.
- ▶ Legislation proposals like Earn IT act (US), Online Harms (UK)
- ▶ Emergency powers granted to Governments to combat COVID-19

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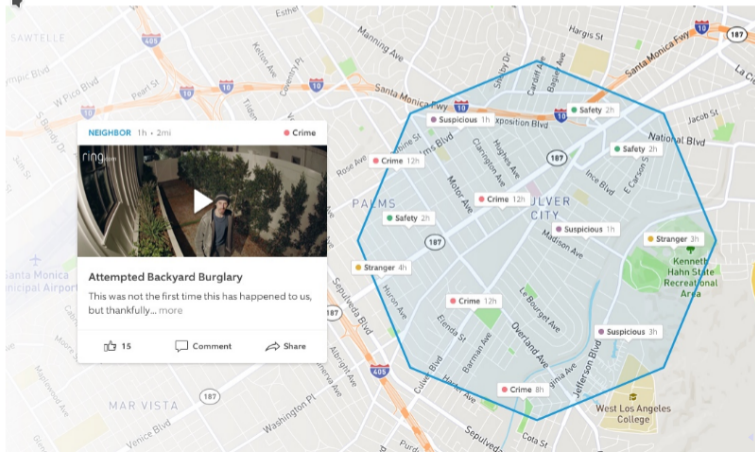
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- ▶ Palantir being used by ICE to pick up illegal immigrants off the street.





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



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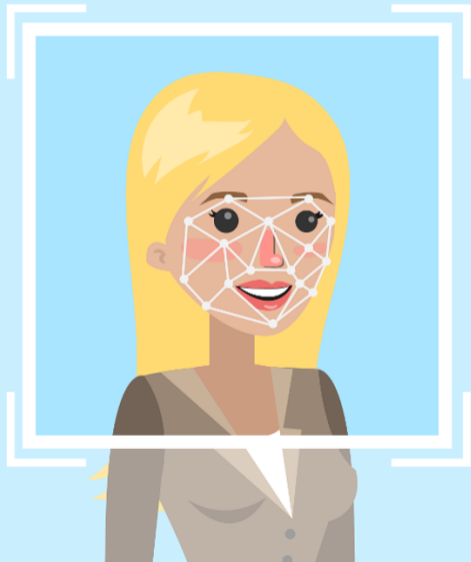
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Facial Recognition

- ▶ Government

Facial Recognition

- ▶ Government
- ▶ Schools

Facial Recognition

- ▶ Government
- ▶ Schools
- ▶ Consumer Products

Facial Recognition

- ▶ Government
- ▶ Schools
- ▶ Consumer Products
- ▶ Shops



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- ▶ 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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- ▶ Even teenagers don't care. Not true, teenagers are private.
- ▶ We need to give up a little privacy for our security. Are we prepared to sacrifice our freedom and dignity?



Is there hope?

A Herculean task

- ▶ Heracles and the Hydra.

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- ▶ Mass Surveillance is the Hydra.

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- ▶ Mass Surveillance is the Hydra.
- ▶ Mass Data Collection is a Hydra head.
- ▶ Facial Recognition is a Hydra head.
- ▶ How do we cut off the head and stop it growing back?

There is Hope!

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- ▶ Certain Cities in the US banning facial recognition.

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- ▶ Certain Cities in the US banning facial recognition.
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- ▶ YOU!

How to defeat the Hydra

- ▶ Do your own research.

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- ▶ Follow privacy focused organisations online.



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- ▶ Build in privacy.
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- ▶ Protect your own privacy.
- ▶ Join decentralised networks like Mastodon and Diaspora.

Use stories to help people to empathise and understand.





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/ZVXT0jz4dZI>

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

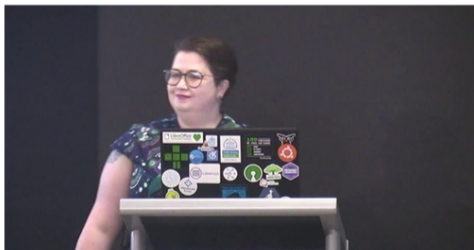


Your post

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

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Brett Sheffield,

and 24 others

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- ▶ Find ways to frame the dialogue around privacy
- ▶ Use your own culture's stories where possible to help people empathise about the dangers
- ▶ Contact your political representatives

Human rights violations are here now.

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It's important to not normalise the virtual
panopticon



The last head of the Hydra is immortal.

The last head of the Hydra is immortal.
Stay Vigilant!

Use the hashtag #RFC1984

Questions?

e-mail: esther@librecast.net

website: librecast.net

twitter: [@onepict](https://twitter.com/onepict)

mastodon: [@onepict@chaos.social](https://chaos.social/@onepict)

telegram: [@onepict](https://t.me/onepict)