

# The Surreptitious Assault on Privacy, Security, and Freedom

Mike Gerwitz

26 March, LibrePlanet 2017

N.B.: These slides appear as they were presented at LibrePlanet 2017 (with the exception of this slide).

For up-to-date slides, see:

<https://mikegerwitz.com/talks/sapsf>

For the source code to this presentation, see:

<https://mikegerwitz.com/projects/sapsf>

You're Being Tracked.

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(No, really, I have references.)

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- Synonymous with individual

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- Excellent tracking devices

## Fundamentally Needed

- Phone needs tower to make and receive calls
- Gives away approximate location [75]
- Multiple towers: signal delay; triangulate



[3]

## Cell-Site Simulators

- IMSI-Catchers
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- Most popular: Stingray



[30]

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- IMSI-Catchers
- Masquerade as cell towers
- Most popular: Stingray
- Free/libre Android program AIMSICD available on F-Droid attempts to detect

[13]



[30]

TOP SECRET//SI//NOFORN

UNITED STATES

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE COURT

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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IN RE APPLICATION OF THE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOR AN ORDER REQUIRING THE  
PRODUCTION OF TANGIBLE THINGS  
FROM VERIZON BUSINESS SERVICES,  
INC. ON BEHALF OF MCI COMMUNICATION  
SERVICES, INC. D/B/A VERIZON  
BUSINESS SERVICES.

---

Docket Number: BR

13-80

SECONDARY ORDER

This Court having found that the Application of the Federal Bureau of

[116]

Senator Ron Wyden, 26 May 2011:

*I have served on the Intelligence Committee for over a decade and I wish to deliver a warning this afternoon. When the American people find out how their government has secretly interpreted [the business records provision of FISA], they are going to be stunned and they are going to be angry.* [103]

## Verizon Metadata

- June 2013—Guardian releases leaked document ordering Verizon to collect “telephony metadata” [43, 39]

*[...] (i) between the United States and abroad; or (ii) wholly within the United States, including local telephone calls.* [116]

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- Routing information, source and destination telephone numbers, IMSI and IMEI numbers, and time and duration of the call [116, 78]
- “Business records” provision partly declassified by Clapper on 6 June 2013 [20]
- The American people were stunned and angry

## Metadata Matters



[74]

- EFF on “Why Metadata Matters”:

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- EFF on “Why Metadata Matters”: [78]
  - They know you rang a phone sex service at 2:24 am and spoke for 18 minutes. But they don’t know what you talked about.
  - They know you spoke with an HIV testing service, then your doctor, then your health insurance company in the same hour. But they don’t know what was discussed.

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- Device may broadcast ESSIDs of past hidden networks
- Expose unique hardware identifiers (MAC address)

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  - **MAC address randomization works poorly**

[61]

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- Often enabled, and programs abuse it [125]
  - Legitimate: navigation, social media, photos, nearby friends, finding lost phones, location-relative searches, etc.

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- Often enabled, and programs abuse it [125]
  - Legitimate: navigation, social media, photos, nearby friends, finding lost phones, location-relative searches, etc.
- If phone is compromised, location is known

## But I Want GPS!

- Is the program transparent in what data it sends? (Is the source code available?) [125]
  - 2010: 47 of top 100 Android and iOS apps sent location to devs and third parties [120]
  - Ex: *Angry Birds* sent address book, location, and device ID to third party [16]
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- Does the program let you disable those [anti-]features?
- Pre-download location-sensitive data (e.g. street maps)
  - OsmAnd (free software, Android and iOS) [80]

## Location Services

- No GPS? No problem!
- Mozilla Location Services, OpenMobileNetwork, . . . [66, 77]
- Wifi Positioning System; Bluetooth networks; nearby cell towers [123]
  - Signal strength and SSIDs and MACs of Access Points [108, 52, 55]

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- Some gathered by Google Street View cars
- Your device may report back nearby networks to build a more comprehensive database
- Works even where GPS and Cell signals cannot penetrate
  - Can be *more* accurate than GPS (e.g. what store in a shopping mall)

## Untrusted/Proprietary OS

- Who does your phone work for?
  - Apple? Google? Microsoft? Blackberry? Your manufacturer too?
- Carry everywhere you go, but fundamentally cannot trust it <sup>[84]</sup>

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- Who does your phone work for?
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- Carry everywhere you go, but fundamentally cannot trust it <sup>[84]</sup>
- Some come with gratis surveillance
  - BLU phones sent SMS messages, contacts, call history, IMEs, and more to third-party servers without users' knowledge or consent <sup>[54]</sup>

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- Replicant [89]
  - Niche. Largely work of one developer now. (Help if you can!)



# Replicant

## Modem Isolation

- But modem still runs non-free software [88]
- Sometimes has access to CPU, disk, and memory [90]

What about your car?



- **Information about you and your accounts with us:** such as your name, address, telephone number, date of birth, e-mail address, login information, demographic data, gender, password, PIN, emergency contact information, information about the acquisition and financing of your vehicle, like whether or not you have financed or leased your vehicle, the lease/financing term, and billing information, like your credit card number, CVV code and expiration date.
- **Information about your vehicle:** such as license plate number, vehicle identification number (VIN), mileage, oil/battery status, fuel or charging history, electrical system function, gear status, and diagnostic trouble codes.
- **Information about the use of your vehicle, including operational and safety related information:** such as GPS location, speed, air bag deployments, crash avoidance alerts, impact data, safety system status, braking and swerving/cornering events, event data recorder (EDR) data, seat belt settings, vehicle direction (heading), camera image and sensor data, voice command information, stability control or anti-lock events, security/theft alerts, infotainment system usage, and WiFi data usage.
- **Information about your device and how you interact with our products and services, including apps and websites:** such as IP address, browser type, unique device identifier, cookie data, associated identifying and usage information from your mobile phone, laptop, or other device.

[83]

- Since 2011, retains all GPS and system data to sell to third parties



*"We know everyone who breaks the law, we know when you're doing it. We have GPS in your car, so we know what you're doing. By the way, we don't supply that data to anyone."* [26]

*—Jim Farley, VP/Marketing and Sales, 2014*

*“If you’ve got nothing to hide, you’ve got nothing  
to fear.”* *[93, 100, 68]*  
—*Joseph Goebbels, Nazi propaganda minister*

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to fear.”* *[93, 100, 68]*

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*—Richard Graham, British MP*

## Private Cameras in Plain View; Tinderloin, SF



[8]

*“The idea that you can sort of meet in a public place and quietly have a conversation that we’re sort of accustomed to from spy movies, that is really not realistic anymore,”*

*—Nadia Kayyali, EFF*

[8]

## Access to Data

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- Data can be obtained with a warrant or subpoena
- Data can be compromised
- Chilling effect
- If you own a surveillance system, be responsible and considerate
  - Best way to restrict data is to *avoid collecting it to begin with*

What if all those cameras—including private—were connected?

# NYPD Domain Awareness System<sup>[86]</sup>

*Although NYPD documents indicate that the system is specifically designed for anti-terrorism operations, any incidental data it collects “for a legitimate law enforcement or public safety purpose” by DAS can be utilized by the police department. [111]*

## Domain Awareness System

- Partnership between the NYPD and Microsoft at a cost of \$230M in 2013 [33, 86]
  - Surveillance cameras, license plate readers, radiation detectors, 911 system, criminal records, . . .
- > 6,000 surveillance cameras,  $\frac{2}{3}$  private businesses [33, 75]

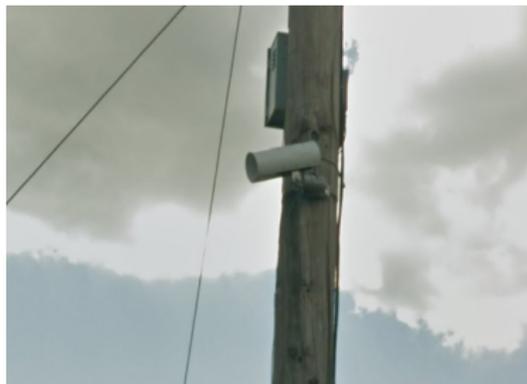
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- Can search in seconds for terms like “red baseball cap” [33, 75]
- Detects “suspicious behaviors” like unattended bags and circling cars [33, 75]

## Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs)



[5]

- Scan passing cars' license plates [124, 5]
- Produce alphanumeric representation with timestamp and photograph

# Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs)

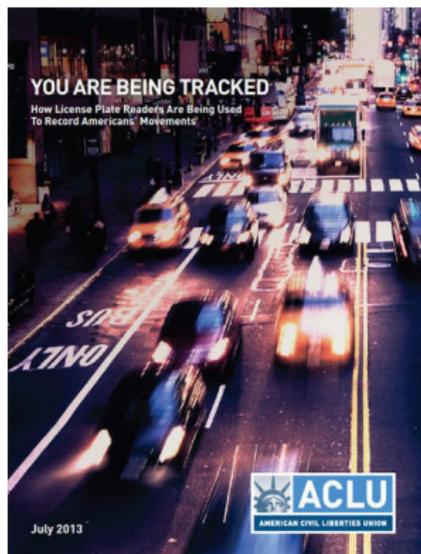
Display Type: Any camera Data transfer: Stop

Gain/Shutter: 4/8 Plate: no read Width: 280 Confidence: 0/248			Q plate z0 c:1 @ conf 941, best of 5, w:280 h:68 13984943 tm: 4 c:02 analyse: retrying on full image 0 no-read 1392ms 1 analyse: plate not found in image rconf:0, wh:106 0407,2240465,1, no-read,00,00821178,148714236 Q plate z0 c:1 @ conf 2695, best of 26, w:280 h:68 13993663 tm: 4 c:02
Gain/Shutter: 4/8 Plate: no read Width: 280 Confidence: 0/1588			Q plate z0 c:1 @ conf 545, best of 3, w:280 h:68 14003063 tm: 4 c:02 no-read 553ms 1 analyse: plate not found in image rconf:0, wh:108 0407,2240048,1, no-read,00,00821177,148714900 html_fetch_url: comp/pjsA/G57/Main.class not found html_fetch_url: comp/pjsA/G57/Main.class not found Q plate z0 c:1 @ conf 367, best of 2, w:280 h:68 14002703 tm: 4 c:02
Gain/Shutter: 4/9 Plate: no read Width: 192 Confidence: 94/1320			Q plate z0 c:1 @ conf 1905, best of 16, w:280 h:68 14008603 tm: 4 c:02 analyse: retrying on full image 40 no-read 1187ms 1 0407,2240105,1, no-read,04,00821180,148716892 active_auto_update_server not visible html_fetch_url: comp/pjsA/G57/Main.class not found html_fetch_url: comp/pjsA/G57/Main.class not found Q plate z0 c:1 @ conf 1905, best of 16, w:280 h:68 14008603 tm: 4 c:02
Gain/Shutter: 4/10 Plate: no read Width: 180 Confidence: 9/1906			Q plate z0 c:1 @ conf 2949, best of 15, w:280 h:68 14038782 tm: 4 c:02 no-read 513ms 1 0407,2240406,1, no-read,04,00821181,148717566

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## Automatic Toll Readers

- Electronic toll booth using RFIDs or ALPRs
  - In the North-East we have E-ZPass (RFID)
  - Golden Gate Bridge requires FasTrack or plate-based

[95]

[27]

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  - *But* they provide an option for an anonymous FasTrack account using cash [47]
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- Routinely used by law enforcement [99]
- ...and divorce cases, in case of FasTrack
- They're not very secure—easily cloned either [56, 41]

## Akin To GPS Tracking

- *United States v. Jones*: GPS tracking constitutes search under Fourth Amendment [112]
- How is pervasive surveillance different if it achieves essentially the same result?

Cameras used to need physical  
access

Today... not always so much

## The “S” In IoT Stands For “Security”

- Shodan—IoT search engine
  - You’ll also find other things. Secure your databases.
  - Can search for specific devices
- If you are vulnerable, someone will find you
  - Mirai—620Gbps DDoS Krebs; 1Tbps OVH

[98]

[53]

# Who's Watching?

Network live IP video cameras directory Insecam.com

Welcome to Insecam project. The world biggest directory of online surveillance security cameras. Select a country to watch live street, traffic, parking, offices, road, beach, south online webcams. How you can search live web cams around the world. You can find from Asia, Americas, Europe, Latin, Turkey, UK, USA, France and a lot of other network video cams available online without a password. Should be noted Insecam is recommended to watch network cameras.

The following actions were made to Insecam for the protection of individual privacy:

- Only filtered cameras are available now. This way name of the cameras on Insecam invade anybody's private life.
- Any private or unauthorised camera will be removed immediately upon a e-mail complaint. Please provide a direct link to help facilitate the prompt removal of the camera.
- If you do not want to contact us by e-mail, you can still remove your camera from Insecam. The only thing you need to do is to set the password of your camera.
- You can add your camera to the directory by following our link. It will be available only after administrator's approval.

The coordinates of the cameras are approximate. They point to the IP address and not the physical address of the camera. This information is accurate only to a few hundred miles. The coordinates are provided only to locate the city where the camera is located, but not it's exact position or address.

Thank you for using Insecam online directory.

Insecam administrator.

Live Streaming camera online video feeds

More live streaming cameras online video feeds

- Insecam is a directory of Internet-connected surveillance cameras<sup>[48]</sup>
- Live video feeds (browser connects directly to cameras)

[48]

Mobile  
Stationary  
The Web  
Data and Profiling  
Policy and Action

Surveillance Cameras (CCTV)  
Driver Surveillance  
Internet of Things  
Social Media



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*“Please be aware that if your spoken words include personal or other sensitive information, that information will be among the data captured and transmitted to a third party through your use of Voice Recognition.”*

*—Samsung SmartTV Privacy Policy, 2015*  
[45]



# Weeping Angel

[119, 115]

- Suppress LEDs for “fake off”
- Record audio
- Remote shell and file transfer
- Extract WiFi credentials
- “TODO”: Record video





## Vulnerabilities Equities Process (VEP)

- Whether or not government should disclose vulnerability
- Hoarding is dangerous (Shadow Brokers / Equation Group; Vault 7 / CIA)
- Apple v. FBI

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- Whether or not government should disclose vulnerability
- Hoarding is dangerous (Shadow Brokers / Equation Group; Vault 7 / CIA)
- Apple v. FBI
- **Makes us less safe!**
  - “Cyberweapon” is an exploit—it cannot be contained

## Amazon Echo—Always Listening



[65]

- Voice recognition on Amazon's servers; have recordings [102, 2]
- Warrant issued in murder case for recordings [102, 2]
- Always listening; “wake word” doesn't matter (they control the software; device can be compromised) [73]

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- Always listening; “wake word” doesn't matter (they control the software; device can be compromised) [73]
  - Should do voice recognition on the device
  - Run free software
  - Connect to *your own server* for actions
  - Hardware switch for microphone

## Consider the Benign

- Water meter used in murder case as evidence
  - 140 gallons between 1AM and 3AM in Winter?
- Thermostat?
  - Usage patterns could hint at when you're home
- Window/door sensors?

[2]

# Creepy-Ass Children's Toys?

home > UK > world > sport > football > opinion > culture > business > lifestyle > fashion > environment > tech  
home > world > europe > US > americas > asia > australia > africa > middle east > cities > development

Germany

## German parents told to destroy doll that can spy on children

German watchdog classifies My Friend Cayla doll as 'illegal espionage apparatus' and says shops and owners could face fines



This article is 1 month old

Philip  
Oltermann



Friday 17 February 2017  
16:53 GMT



Jayla, aged four, plays with a My Friend Cayla doll in the Hamleys toy shop in London. Photograph: Rob Stothard/Getty Images

[76]

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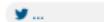
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Jayla, aged four, plays with a My Friend Cayla doll in the Hamleys toy shop in London. Photograph: Rob Stothard/Getty Images

[76]

## ALPRs Wide Open



- John Matherly (Shodan author) noticed many web-accessible PIPS control panels
- Other researcher found some accessible via telnet [34]

## Biometrics

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- Even fingerprints and iris from high-resolutions photos (defeat Apple's TouchID) [44]

## Collateral Damage

- Please don't put pictures of me on Facebook [101]
- Don't put pictures of my children anywhere [22]

## Collateral Damage

- Please don't put pictures of me on Facebook [101]
- Don't put pictures of my children anywhere [22]
- That person in the distance is collateral damage [14, 4, 75]

Fleshy You  $\longleftrightarrow$  Virtual You



Bureau of Consumer Protection

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
**FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

[date]

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

[App Developer]

Dear Sir or Madam:

You currently offer a mobile application for download in the Google Play store. We are writing to you today because of code included in the application that may allow third parties to monitor consumers' television viewing for ad targeting or analytics.

[64]

## Ultrasound Tracking

...  $\iff$  TV  $\iff$  Retail Store  $\iff$  Mobile  $\iff$  Web  $\iff$  ...

- Correlates users across devices; airgap bridge [63, 70]
  - Inaudible to humans
- Could deanonymize (e.g. Tor users) [62, 19]

## Ultrasound Tracking



*“Silverpush could generate a detailed log of the television content viewed while a user’s mobile phone was turned on.”*

[64]

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  - Don't run untrusted code on websites (use e.g. NoScript) [40]
  - Turn off your device when not in use
  - Keep device away from other media

Mobile  
Stationary  
**The Web**  
Data and Profiling  
Policy and Action

Bridging the Gap  
**Analytics**  
Social Networking  
Fingerprinting  
Incentive to Betray  
Mitigations & Anonymity

# Data Analytics

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## (Building User Profiles)

# Data Analytics

(Building User Profiles)  
(Tracking)

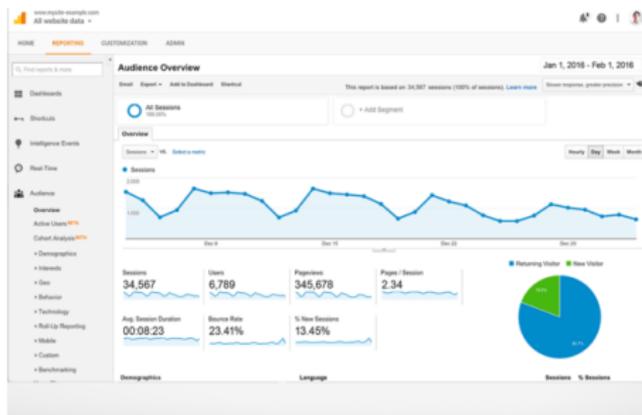
# Spyware

# Spyware (With Science)

# Trackers

- Website owners want to know what their visitors are doing
  - That in itself isn't an unreasonable concept
- Methods and data define the issue

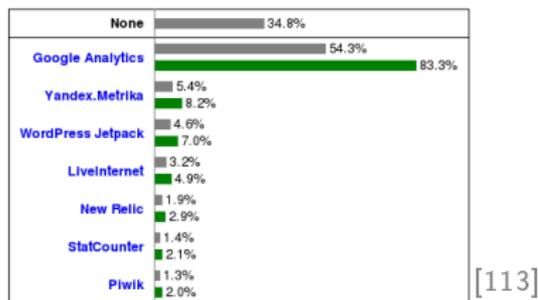
# Google Analytics



[60]

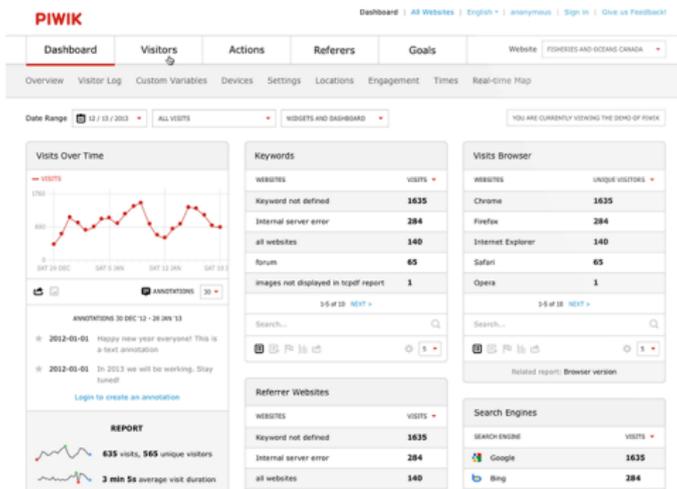
- User location, screen resolution, time on page, heatmap, etc [6]
- Unique identifier assigned
- Fine-grained reporting for site owner

# Google Analytics



- User location, screen resolution, time on page, heatmap, etc [6]
- Unique identifier assigned
- Fine-grained reporting for site owner
- Knows many sites user visited across Web [37]

# Piwik



[35]

- Data on **your own servers** [38]
- Visitor privacy settings [118]
- Privacy as a site owner

## Like Buttons



[117]

- Infecting the Web with trackers under guise of community  
[51, 6, 110]
- Tracks regardless of whether you are logged in to Facebook  
[7, 92, 16]

# Fingerprinting

EFF Research, 2010:

[49, 46]

*“In our analysis of anonymized data from around half a million distinct browsers, 84% had unique configurations. Among browsers that had Flash or Java installed, 94% were unique, and only 1% had fingerprints that were seen more than twice.”*

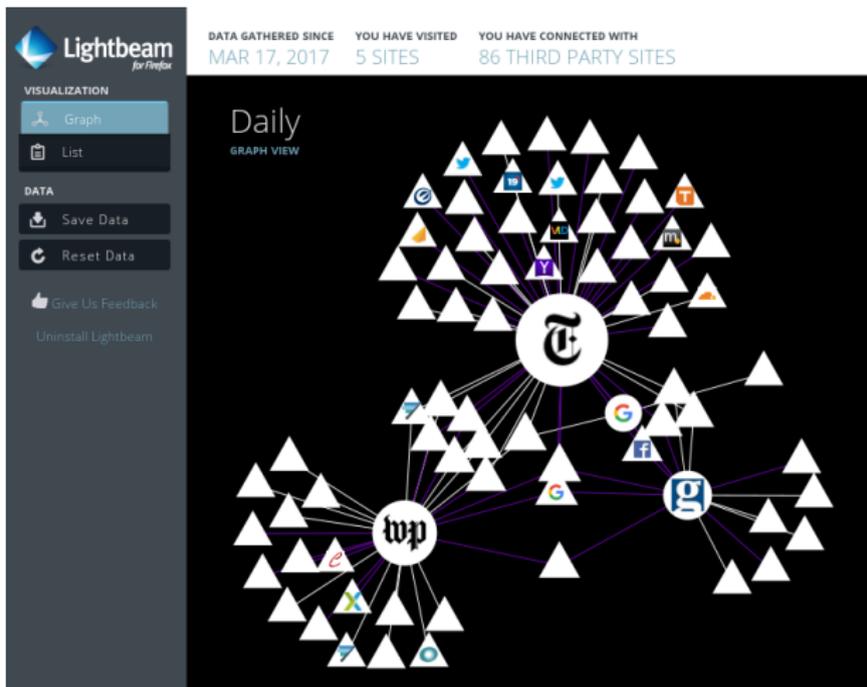
That was seven years ago.  
You're really screwed today.\*  
[10, 46, 31, 50, 81, 1, 71, 9, 42, 12]

## Alarming Effective

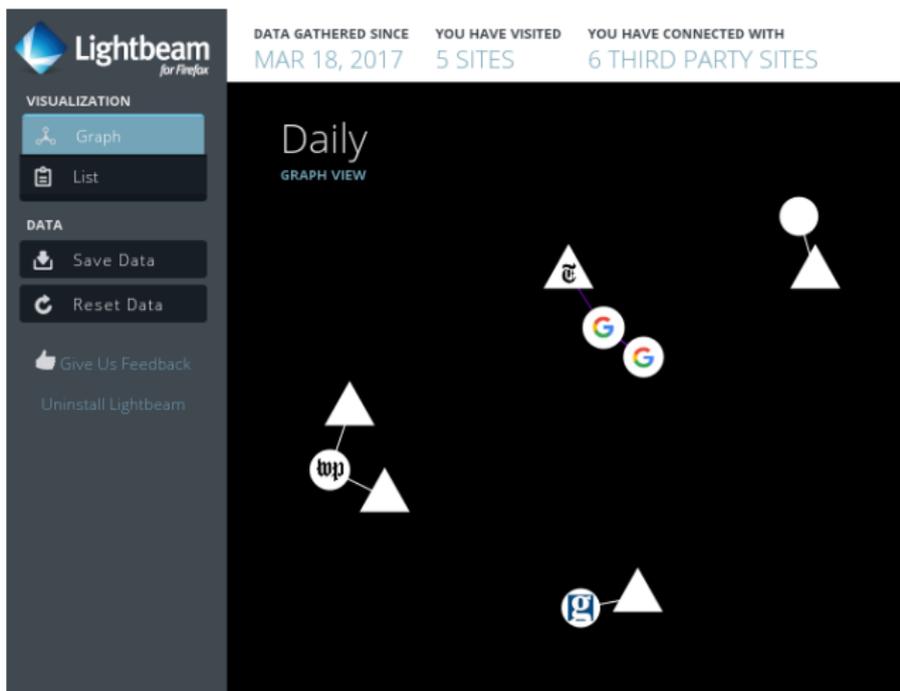
- Panopticlick (EFF) [32]
- User Agent, cookies, screen resolution, fonts, language, session storage, canvas, WebGL, ad blocker, audio, keystrokes, mouse movement, . . . [67]
- Can even track separate browsers on the same hardware [12, 42]

## How Does This Happen?

- There is strong incentive to betray
  - Money (advertising)
  - Attention & praise
  - “Business intelligence”



[58]



(After mitigations)

# How Do We Mitigate?

## Disable the Damn JavaScript!



## Disable the Damn JavaScript!



- Preempt most sophisticated and damning fingerprinting methods
  - Stop hardware profiling
  - Stop keystroke/mouse analysis
  - Remember those audio beacons?

[67]

[19]

## Disable the Damn JavaScript!

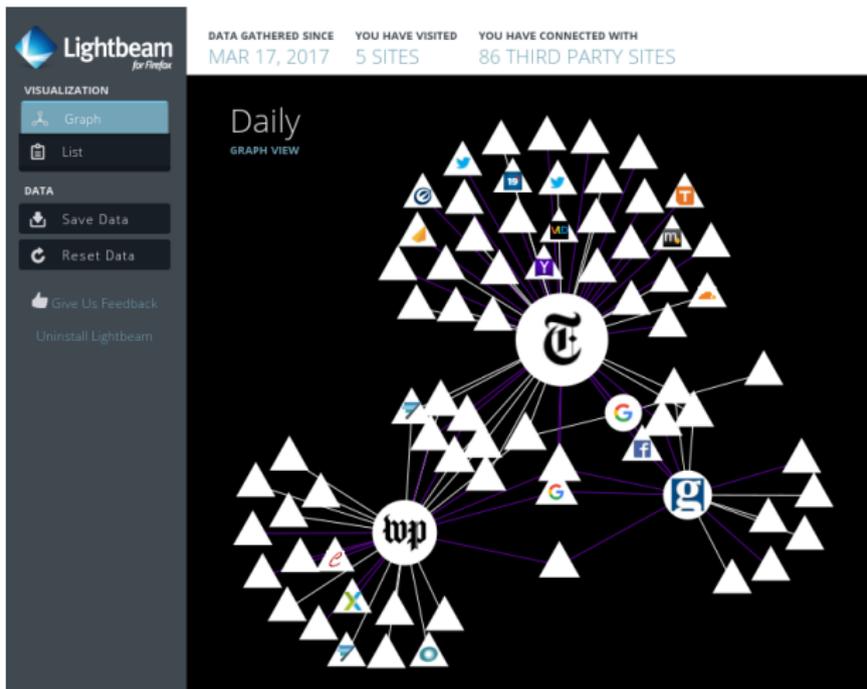


- Running arbitrary untrusted, unsigned, ephemeral code (also from many third parties) [40]
  - *Restore Online Freedom!* (My LibrePlanet 2016 talk)
  - LibreJS blocks non-free, but free doesn't mean free of malice

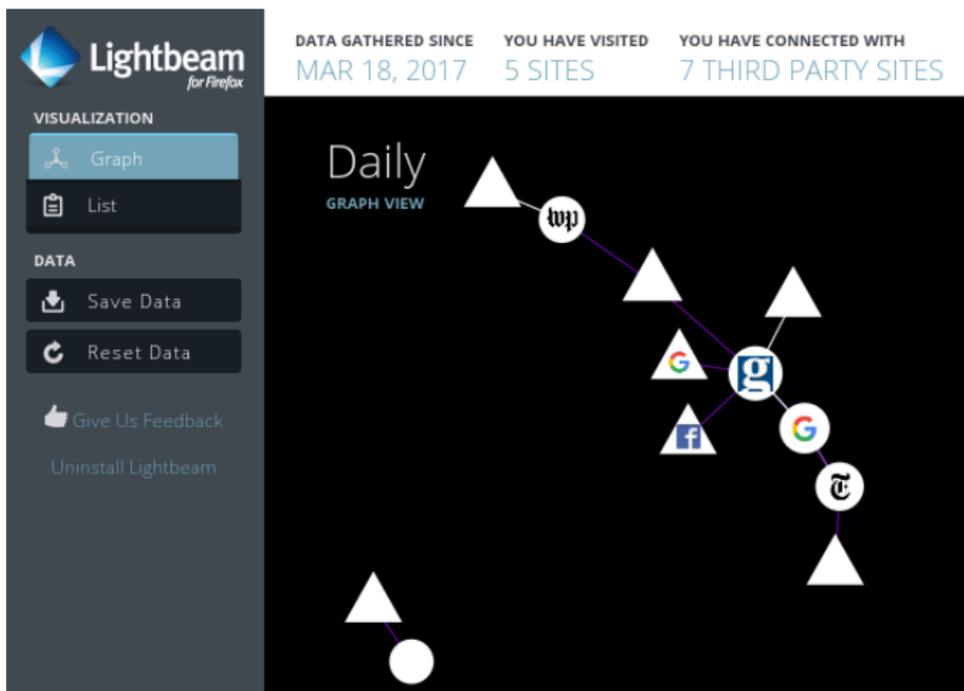
## Disable the Damn JavaScript!



- NoScript blocks JavaScript based on URL patterns [72]
  - *Warning:* Allows some sites by default!
  - Also blocks media and fonts; provides XSS and clickjacking prevention



(Before NoScript)



(After NoScript with *no whitelist*)

## Ads/Trackers; Security



- *Privacy Badger* blocks trackers [82, 87]
- *uBlock<sub>0</sub>* “wide-spectrum blocker” [109]
- *Self-Destructing Cookies* clears cookies and LocalStorage [97]

Mobile  
Stationary  
**The Web**  
Data and Profiling  
Policy and Action

Bridging the Gap  
Analytics  
Social Networking  
Fingerprinting  
Incentive to Betray  
Mitigations & Anonymity



**HTTPS://**  
**EVERYWHERE**

# Pseudonymity

Origin is unknown to server; unique identifier *is available*  
to server<sup>[121]</sup>

# Anonymity

Origin is unknown to server; no unique identifier known  
by server<sup>[121]</sup>

# IANAAE

(I Am Not An Anonymity Expert)

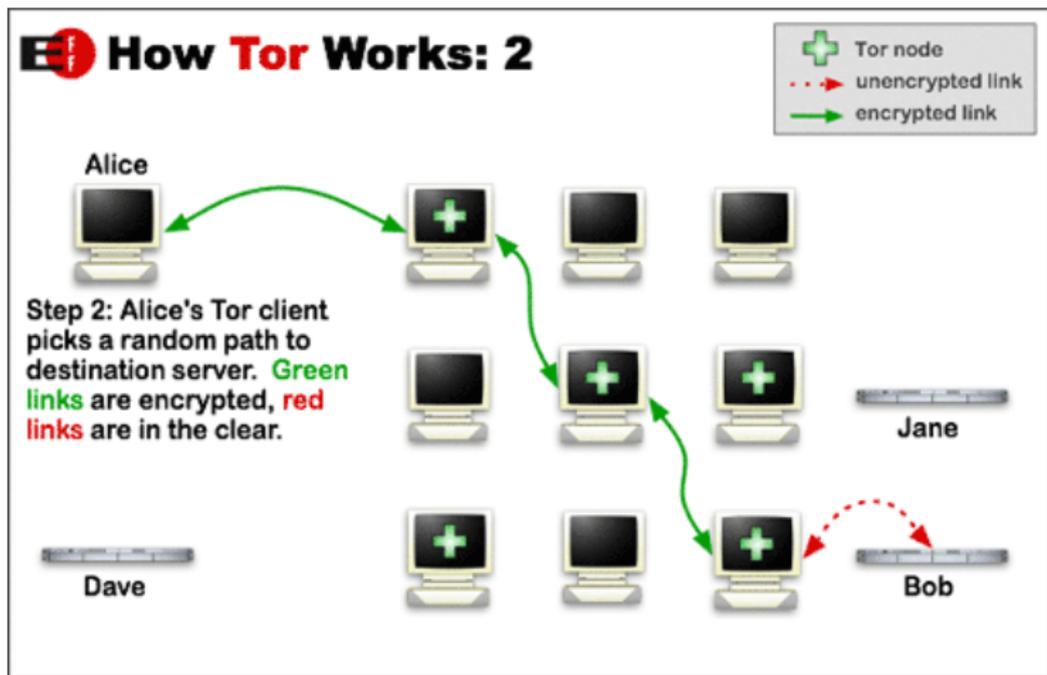
# The Tor Network



- The Onion Router (Tor)
- Helps defend against traffic analysis

[85]

# The Tor Network



[106]

## TorBrowser, Tails, and Whonix

- Also need to change browsing habits

[121]

## TorBrowser, Tails, and Whonix



- Browser needs to be hardened
  - Remember: browser leaks a lot of data [32, 46]
  - TorBrowser is a hardened Firefox derivative [105, 81]

## TorBrowser, Tails, and Whonix



- Operating System needs to be hardened
  - Tails—The Amnesic Incognito Live System

[104]

## TorBrowser, Tails, and Whonix



- Operating System needs to be hardened
  - Tails—The Amnesic Incognito Live System
  - Whonix—Multi-layer isolation in VMs

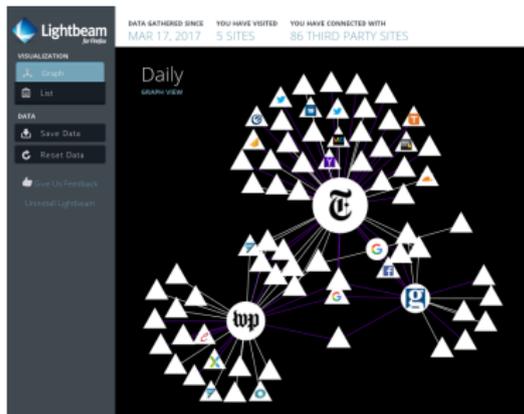
[104]

[122]

# “Big Data” (*Your* Big Data)

# “Business Intelligence”

## Data Brokers



- Ghostery lists over 3,000 companies receiving web/app data

[21]

## Oracle Identity Graph

Oracle Identity Graph Unites All Interactions Across Various Channels to Create One Addressable Consumer Profile

- Identify customers and prospects everywhere
- Unify addressable identities across all devices, screens and channels
- Deliver a more relevant customer experience

**ORACLE**

Copyright © 2013 Oracle and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

*“Aggregates and provides insights on over \$2 trillion in consumer spending from 1,500 data partners across 110 million US households”*

[79]

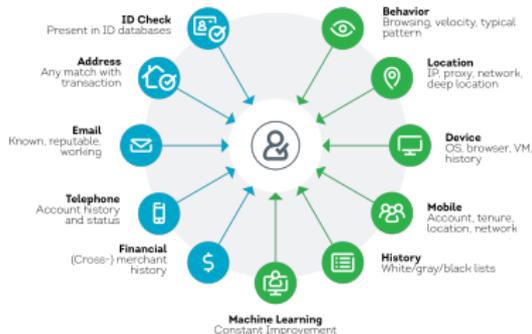
# “More Relevant Customer Experience”

## Target Pregnancy Prediction



- Records purchases, credit cards, coupons, surveys, refunds, customer helpline calls, email, website visits, . . . [16]
- Purchase more information from third parties [16]
- Identified 25 products to create a “pregnancy prediction” score and estimate due date [25]
  - Quantities of types of lotions, soaps, cotton balls, supplements, etc

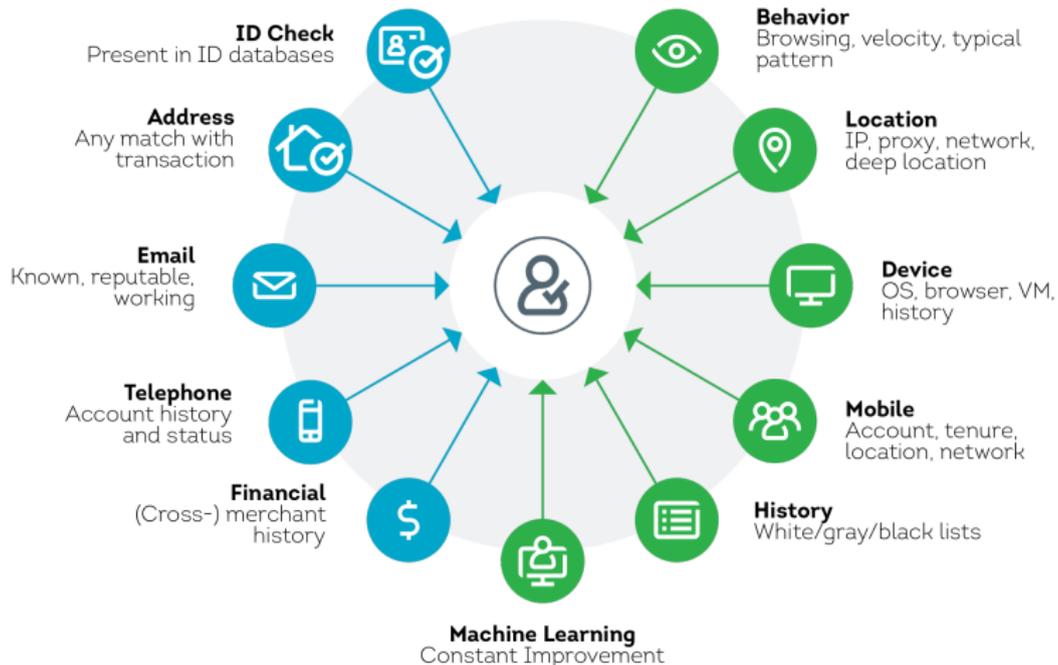
## Transparency Needed



[107]

- Let users see their data in this graph!
- Erase nonpublic information that they don't want to be known
- Let them correct what is wrong
  - Also a problem with law enforcement / government
- Let them opt out!

# Trustev Fraud Detection





- Risk management for insurance, finance, retail, travel, government, gaming, and healthcare [16]
- Data on over 500 million customers
- TrueID—34 billion records from over 10,000 sources [57]

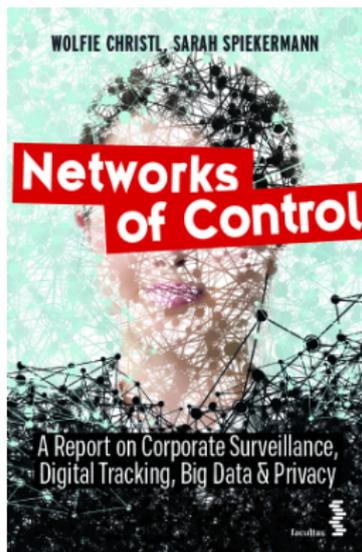
*“We help insurers assess their risk and streamline the underwriting process in 99% of all U.S. auto insurance claims and more than 90% of all homeowner claims.”*

# Palantir



- Started by Peter Thiel of PayPal
- CIA, DHS, NSA, FBI, the CDC, the Marine Corps, the Air Force, Special Operations Command, West Point, the Joint IED-defeat organization and Allies, the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

[11]



[16, 15]

Shock and Awe

We're feeding into all of this!

## Software as a Service Substitute (SaaS)

- Disturbing trend to replace traditional software with services
- Do not own your own data *or* computations
- Companies balance privacy on their balance sheets
  - Countless data breaches

## Decentralize!

- Host what you can (GNU Social, NextCloud, ...)
- Damn it, Moxie (Signal)—use XMPP, OMEMO

“I Have Nothing To Hide”

## Complacency

# Complacency in the Status Quo

The status quo cannot hold.

We need to push back

*You* need to push back

Mike Gerwitz  
mtg@gnu.org

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<https://mikegerwitz.com/talks/sapsf>

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