

Six years after Snowden

A summary of lessons learned and
lessons lost for the networked society

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Presentation Overview

- 1) Introduction (Speaker, Situation, Spies, Source, Scandal)
- 2) The Snowden-Revelations
- 3) Global Reactions
- 4) Three scenarios
- 5) Lessons learned, lessons lost

The Speaker

The Speaker

- Researcher at the Weizenbaum Institute for the Networked Society
 - The German Internet Institute
 - Research interests: IT security, privacy, data protection, critical computer science
- CS & Philosophy (Humboldt-University Berlin, Freie University Berlin)
 - Chair Prof. Wolfgang Coy (Computer science and society)
 - Diploma thesis about government hacking and its societal implications

weizenbaum
institut

The Speaker

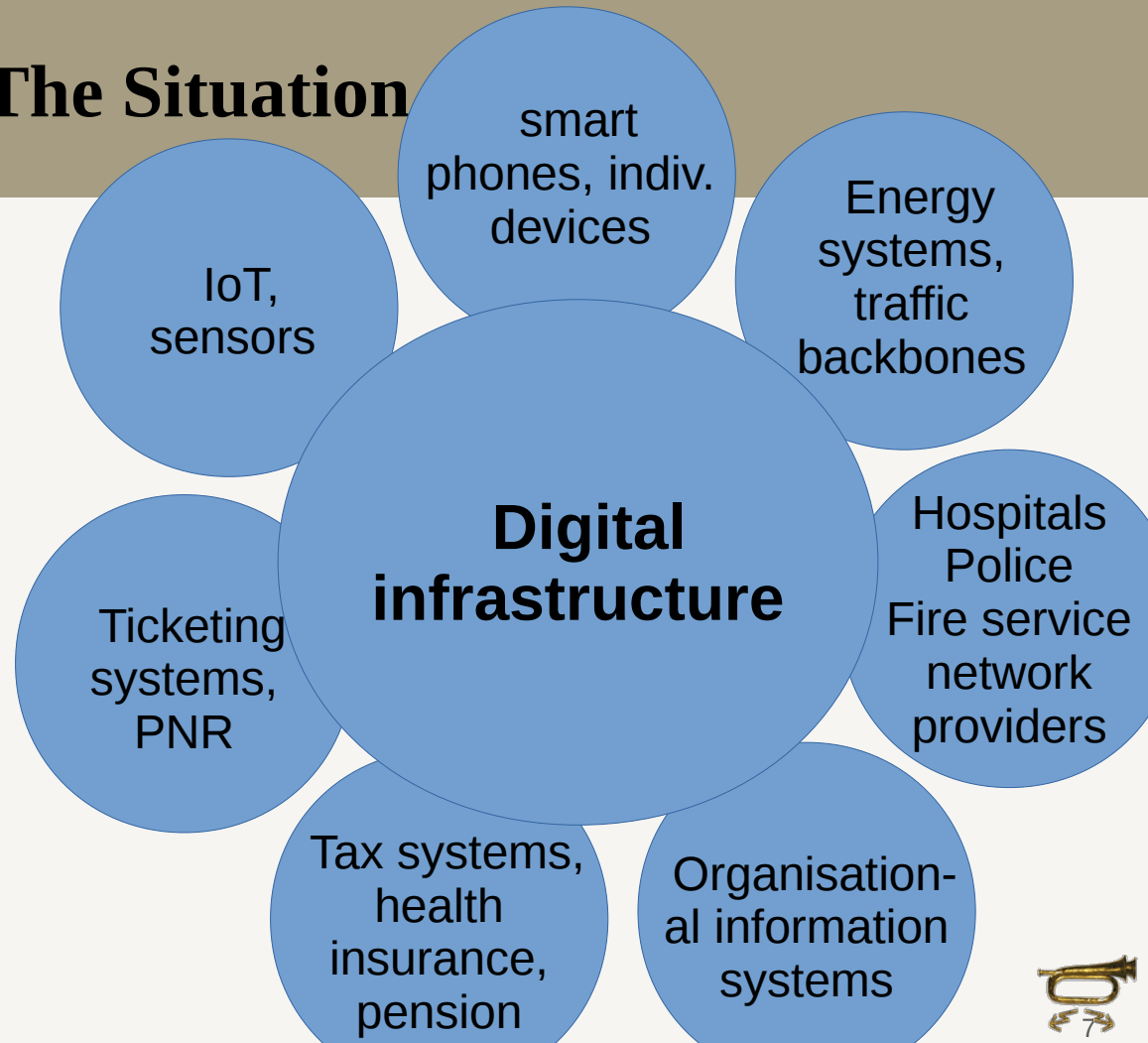
- Computer Professionals for Peace and Social Responsibility (FIFF, co-founded by J. Weizenbaum in 1984)
 - Board member
- German Informatics Society (GI)
 - Focus group “CS & ethics”
- Amnesty International Germany
 - Expert group “Human rights in the digital age”
- Transatlantic Cyber Forum (snv)
 - Expert groups “Government hacking” and “Vulnerability management”



The Situation

The Situation

- Society under the digital condition
- Digital (network) infrastructure everywhere
- From playground to infrastructure



Basics of IT security

- Core issue: Insecure systems
 - IT security (Confidentiality, Integrity, Availability)
- Vulnerabilities (=possibility to violate ITSec)
- Exploit (piece of software using vulns)
 - 0day, Zeroday, Zeroday-Exploit
 - So far undisclosed exploit (no necessarily unknown!)
 - Grey market, up to millions of €
- Threat to Availability: DDoS (distributed denial-of-service)
 - System overload



Documentary by Alex Gibney [Fair use](#)

The Spies

The Spies



Public domain

- 1943: “Five eyes” IC cooperation: US, UK, NZ, AU and CAN
- 1952: Truman establishes the NSA (No Such Agency)
- SIGINT, originated from military deciphering unit
- Black budget >\$10 Mrd. p. a.
- Est. 30.000 – 40.000 employees
- Owns ships and airplanes
(z. B. USS Liberty)
- Became largely known in the EU b/c of the „ECHELON“ programm in 2001
 - Right before 9/11, so no publicity was generated



The Source

Edward Joseph Snowden

- Born 1983
- United States Army Reserve / Special Forces
- Worked for CIA, NSA, DELL
Booz Allen Hamilton (Administrator /
Data Analyst / Trainer)
- Published nothing, passed-on thousands of documents to journalists e.g. Glenn Greenwald (the Guardian), contents never contested
- According to US law not a Whistleblower
- Charged with Espionage Act (1917) → secret court / "arcane World War I law" (Radack)
- Passport revoked by the USA while in Moscow



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The Scandal

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Summer of Snowden

2013

Summer of Snowden



Documentary by ^{Fair use}
Laura Poitras

Why „Summer of Snowden“?

- 1996: New digital world!

A Declaration of the Independence of Cyberspace

by John Perry Barlow

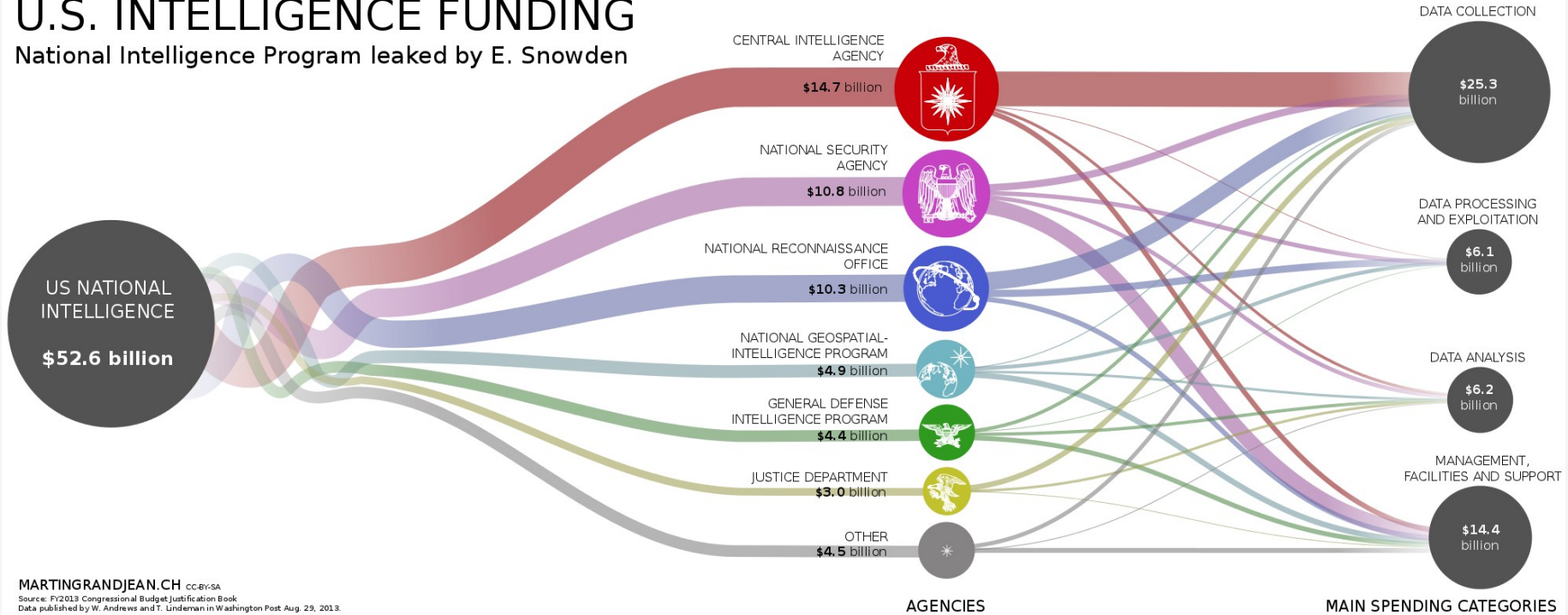
Governments of the Industrial World, you weary giants of flesh and steel, I come from Cyberspace, the new home of Mind. On behalf of the future, I ask you of the past to leave us alone. You are not welcome among us. You have no sovereignty where we gather.

8. Feb 1996, <https://www.eff.org/cyberspace-independence>

- 2013: Summer of Snowden
“Manhattan Project” of CS

Black budget

U.S. INTELLIGENCE FUNDING National Intelligence Program leaked by E. Snowden



MARTINGRANDJEAN.CH CC-BY-SA
 Source: FY2013 Congressional Budget Justification Book
 Data published by W. Andrews and T. Linderman in Washington Post Aug. 29, 2013.



National Intelligence Priorities

National Intelligence Priorities Framework (composited from different timeframes)		Info Date	Notes
Page 1	Band A/Tier 1		
	Cyber Attacks		
	Health and Infectious Diseases (HLTH)	5	
	Humanitarian relief/ Complex Emergency response (HREL)		
	Nuclear Program		
	Counterespionage (CINT)	5	
	US Forces At Risk		
	Military Capabilities and Activities (FMCC)		
	Money Laundering (MONY)		
	Criminal Activity (CRIM)		
	Drug Trade (DRUG)		
	Demographics (DEMG)		
	Infrastructure (INFR)		
	Environment Issues/ Mineral Resources (ENVRY)		
	Human Rights And War Crimes (HRCWM)		
	Emerging Strategic Technologies	4	
	Food Products and Security (FOOD)		
	Energy Security (ESEC)		
	Regional Crisis/Flashpoints to war (SRCC)		
	Domestic Security/Political Stability (DEPS)		
International Trade Policy (TRAD)	4		
Arms Exports	4		
Weapons Trade			
Arms Control and Treaty Monitoring (ACTM)	4		
Advanced Conventional Weapons Systems Proliferation (ACWP)	4		
Foreign Policy Objectives (FPOL)	3		
Economic and Financial Stability (EFCFS)	3		
Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDM)			
Counterterrorism (TERR)			
Leadership Intentions (LEAD)			
Germany (Apr 2013)		Apr 2013	9 areas in total covered
Germany (Jan 2007)		Jan 2007	

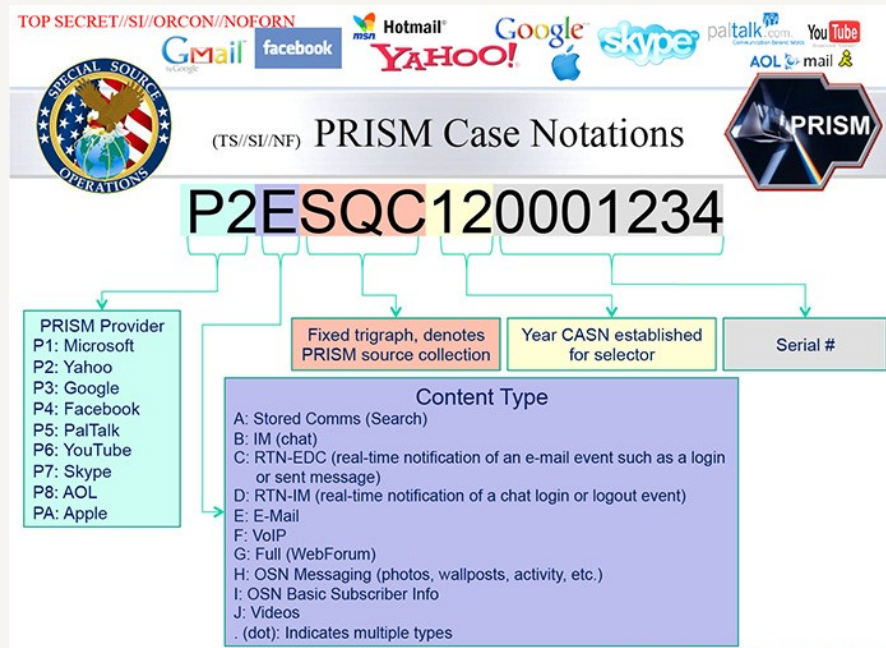
NSA-Programs

Revelations

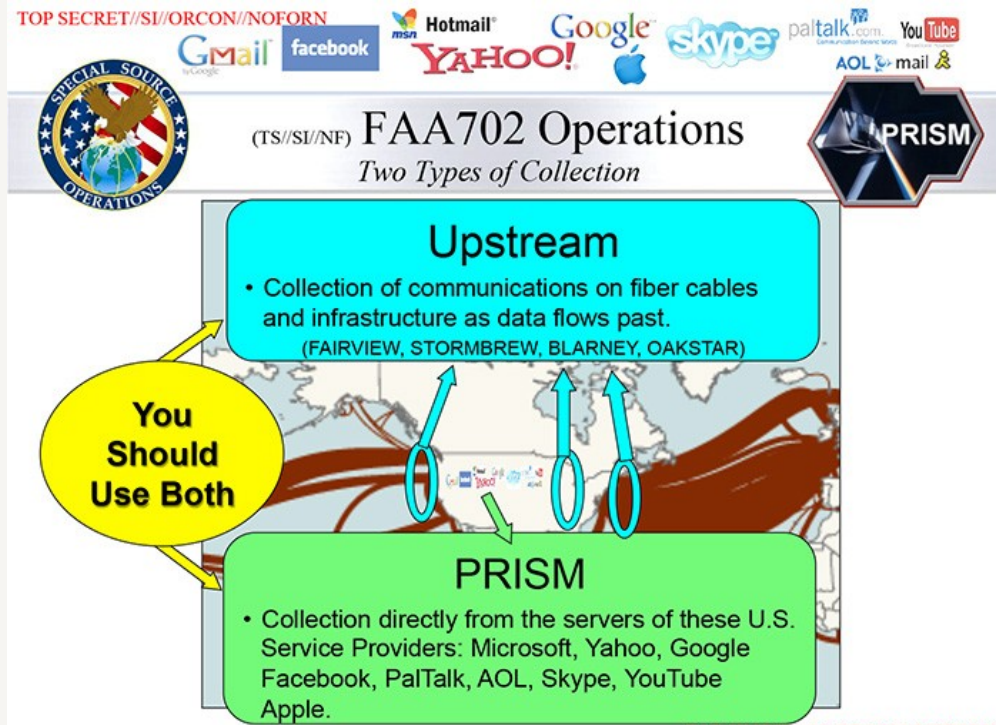


- PRISM: Direct access (Apple (iCloud), Google (gmail, calendar, youtube, gdocs), Facebook, Skype and Microsoft (Office 365))

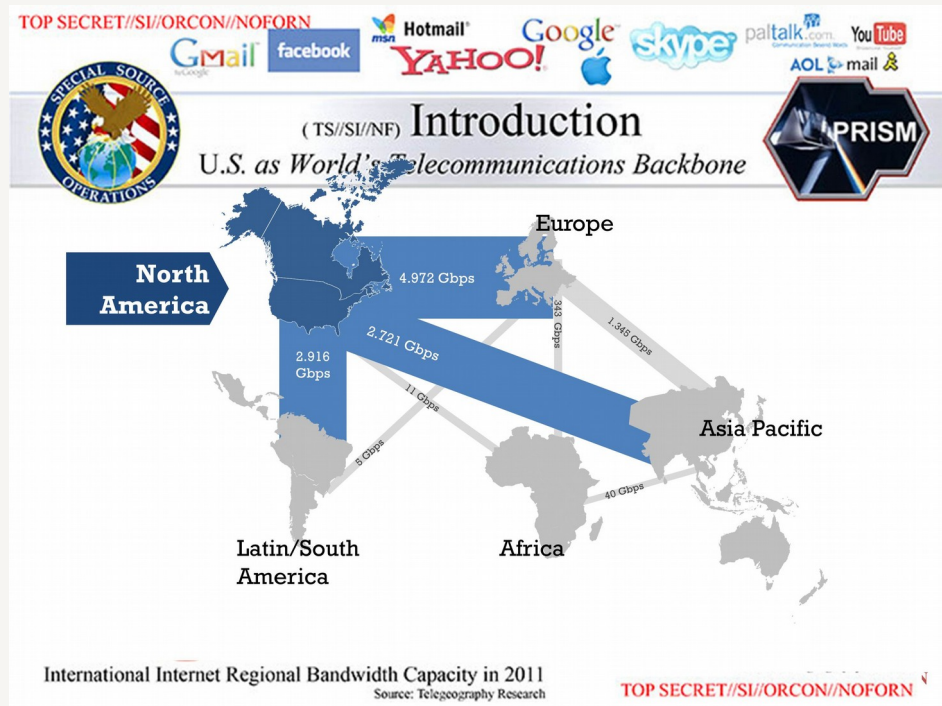
(c) Adam Hart-Davis
WaPo, Free to use



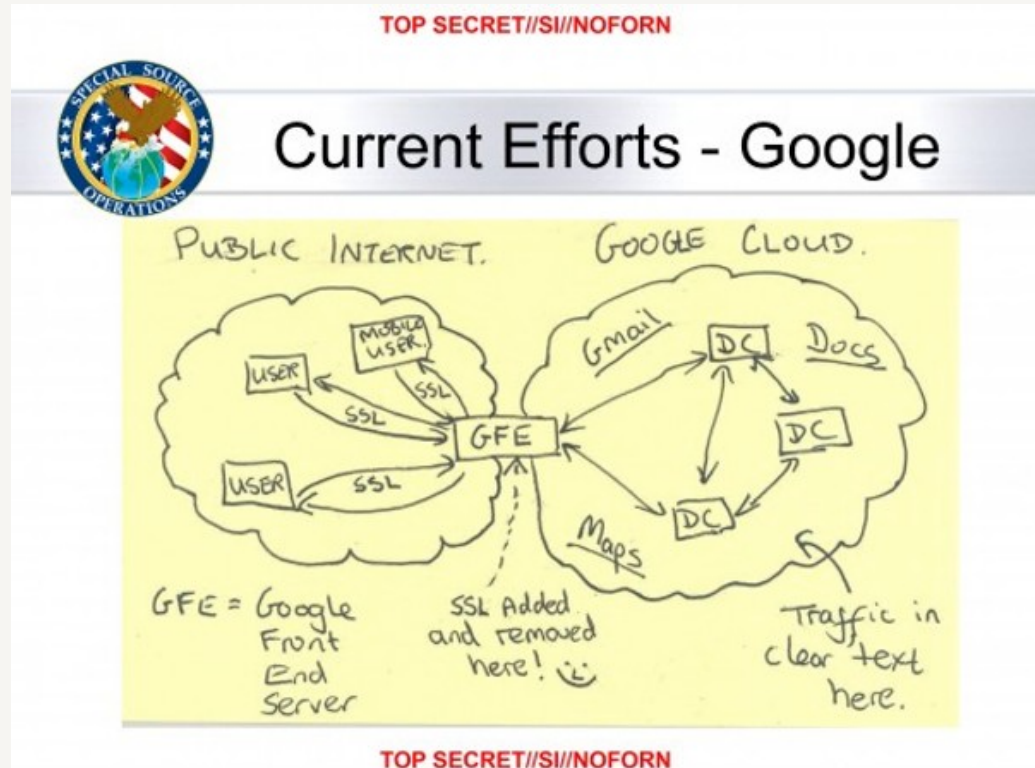
- Data access via sea cables (Upstream)
GCHQ: Tempora



- Ingest internal corporate traffic at core traffic nodes

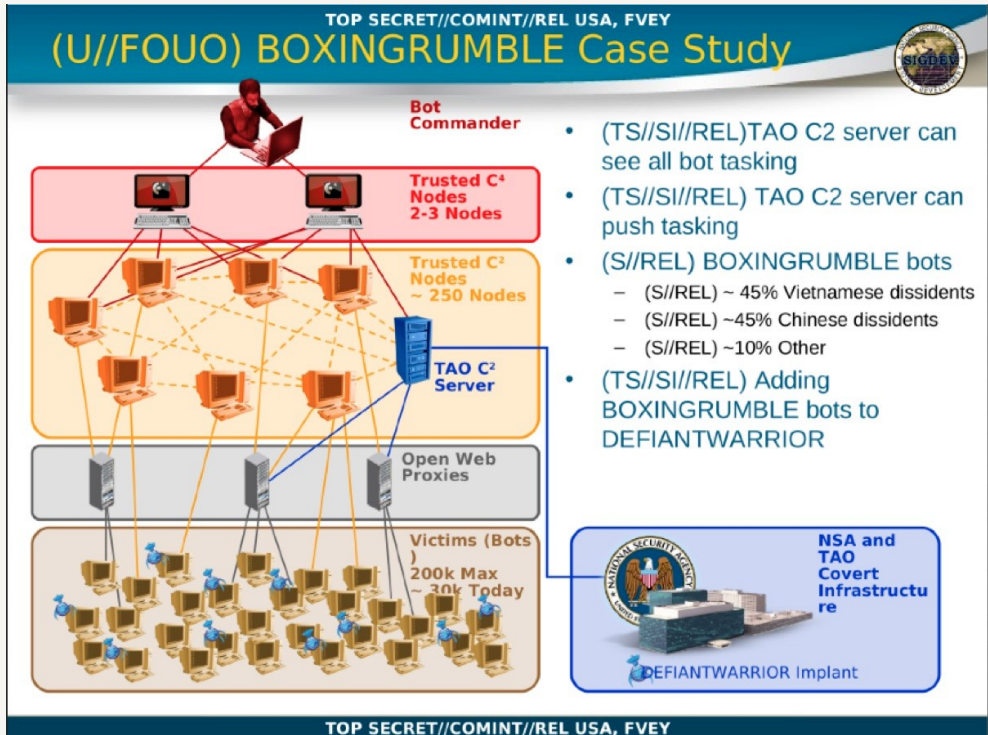


- Ingest internal corporate traffic at core traffic nodes



- **Metadata** of communication (calls, sms, internet) via providers (Verizon, Orange), down to HTTP headers
- Stockpiling of **exploits** for Blackberry, Android, iPhone, Microsoft
 - Cooperation with companies (Microsoft Active Protection Program, MAPP)
 - Surveillance of security forums

- Automated creation of NSA-Botnets

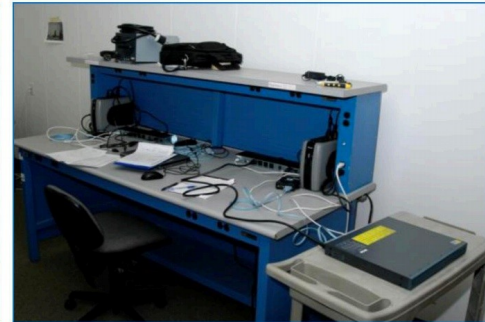


- Hacking of infrastructure
 - Belgian provider Belgacom: serves **EU** offices
 - Blackberrys at **G20** in London 2009
 - **UN** VC system in New York
 - **SWIFT** system
 - **CIX** in HK/China
 - 2012: Internet down in **Syria**, configuration error

- **Imitation** of Websites such as **Facebook** (Quantum Insert) or **Linked-In**
- **G20** (2009): fake internetcafés near the venue
- **Cookies and Ad-networks** of private actors
 - Google-Play-Connections, Windows crash reports
 - “Fingerprinting across devices”

- Interception of mailings, addition of so-called Implants, transmit data via radio, supposedly also parcels to Germany

(TS//SI//NF) Such operations involving **supply-chain interdiction** are some of the most productive operations in TAO, because they pre-position access points into hard target networks around the world.



(TS//SI//NF) Left: Intercepted packages are opened carefully; Right: A “load station” implants a beacon

- Weakening of encryption standards (Edgehill/Bullrun)
 - Interference with NIST for standard encryption key **sizes**
 - Cooperation with tech companies, adding **backdoors** (RSA securities)
 - Secret agents in tech companies to retrieve TLS root keys (**HTTPS**)
- Utilising **Anti-Virus-Software**
 - Use Vulnerability reports to find vulnerabilities
 - Hack AVS (jackpot)
- **Gemalto**-Hack (globally largest SIM card producer)
 - Probably copied private Keys of SIM cards

Selectors

TOP SECRET//COMINT//REL TO USA, FVEY



Selector Types

Machine IDs

- **Cookies**
 - Hotmail GUIDs
 - Google prefIDs
 - YahooBcookies
 - mailruMRCU
 - yandexUid
 - twitterHash
 - ramblerRUID
 - facebookMachine
 - doubleclickID
- **Serial numbers**
- **Browser tags**
 - Simbar
 - ShopperReports
 - SILLYBUNNY
- **Windows Error IDs**
- **Windows Update IDs**

Attached Devices

- **IMEIs for Phones**
 - Apple IMEIs
 - Nokia IMEIs
- **UDIDs**
 - Apple UDIDs
- **Bluetooth?**
 - Device Name
 - Device Address

Cipher Keys

- **Cipher Keys uniquely identified to a user**
 - ejKeyID

User Leads

- **User selectors from Cookies, Registry, and Profile Folders**
 - msnpassport
 - google
 - yahoo
 - Youtube
 - Skype
 - Paltalk
 - Fetion
 - QQ
 - hotmailCID
- **STARPROC-identified active users**

Network

- **Wireless MACs**
- **VSAT MACs and IPs**
- **Remote Administration IPs**
 - Putty
 - WinSCP



(U) What is TREASUREMAP?



(U//FOUO) Capability for building a near real-time, interactive map of the global internet.

Map the entire Internet – Any device*, anywhere, all the time

(U//FOUO) We enable a wide range of missions:

- Cyber Situational Awareness – *your own network plus adversaries'*
- Common Operation Pictures (COP)
- Computer Attack/Exploit Planning / Preparation of the Environment
- Network Reconnaissance
- Measures of Effectiveness (MOE)

(* limited only by available data)

- Global overview: Boundless Informant



- XKEYSCORE: Search engine
- **150** locations with **700** servers
- Query and configuration tool
 - In data centers and CIX
- Retention
 - Full take 3 to 5 days
 - Metadata 30 to 45 days
- AppIDs, fingerprints and microplugins
 - Protocol, contents and GENESIS



Micah Lee, The Intercept

FOSS detour

„XKEYSCORE is a piece of **Linux** software that is typically deployed on **Red Hat** servers. It uses the **Apache** web server and stores collected data in **MySQL** databases. File systems in a cluster are handled by the **NFS** distributed file system and the **autofs** service, and scheduled tasks are handled by the **cron** scheduling service. Systems administrators who maintain XKEYSCORE servers use **SSH** to connect to them, and they use tools such as **rsync** and **vim**, as well as a comprehensive command-line tool, to manage the software. [...]

Analysts connect to XKEYSCORE over HTTPS using standard web browsers such as **Firefox**. Internet Explorer is **not** supported.“

<https://firstlook.org/theintercept/2015/07/02/look-under-hood-xkeyscore/>



FOSS detour

- **Free** Software Movement (1983, MIT AI Lab)
- How about software with a NOINTL/NOMIL clause?
 - R. Stallmann says “No, then it’s not free software anymore!”
- Understanding of “freedom”?



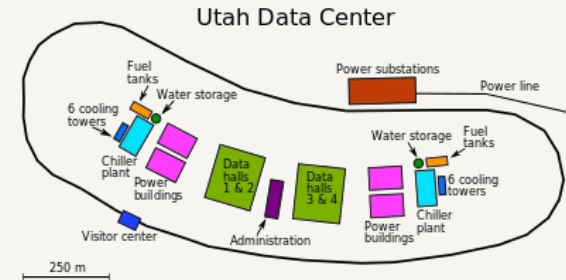
Stallmann GPL

NSA data centers

- **Goal:** Keep all data of the internet for 100 years
 - Retrospective access
 - Breaking of crypto ciphers
- **Detail:** United States Cyber Command
 - Unification of military and NSA capabilities



By Cory Doctorow, CC-BY-SA



- A note on Tor



TOP SECRET//COMINT// REL FVEY

Tor Stinks...^(U)

- We will never be able to de-anonymize all Tor users all the time.
- With manual analysis we can de-anonymize a **very small fraction** of Tor users, however, **no** success de-anonymizing a user in response to a TOPI request/on demand.

What for?

Targets so far

- Surveillance of the EU, the UN (including Ban Ki-Moon), the IAEA, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, G8-summit, G20-summit, COP15 (UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen), German Chancellor Angela Merkel, her Cabinet, the Turkish and Brazilian government, South American oil companies, Visa, Mastercard, the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT), Huawei, Chinese Government, US-Lawyers, Canadian candidates for „WTO director general“, Media organisations (Spiegel) etc.

- Collecting compromising data on certain subjects
 - Wikileaks, pirate bay, porn sites, ... (LOVEINT)
- The US knew the positions of members
 - of the climate negotiations in 2009
 - Sanction talks regarding Iran
 - Energy and oil talks in South America
- Snowden: “If the NSA need Siemens tech knowledge, they know where to look.”

Evaluation

- Bulk-collection evaluated by **Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board** (PCLOB, with access to all classified documents)
 - "lacks a viable legal foundation"
 - "little evidence that [...] NSA's bulk collection of telephone records actually have yielded material counterterrorism results that could not have been achieved without the NSA's Section 215 program."
 - Rather use terror prevention and local informants & tips from local communities
 - report recommended to **end** US-bulk data collection
- Similar results from Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law, etc.

Reactions and Consequences

Reactions and Consequences

- US government:

“We need those powers.”

- Public vulnerabilities equities process (VEP)
- IT sec and data protection came into focus in politics and business

Reactions and Consequences

- Thought experiment:
What would you do as sovereign nation?

Reactions and Consequences

- What would you do as sovereign nation?
 - Have national digital services?
 - Make your own hardware?
 - Make your own software?
 - Have a firewall around your country?

Reactions and Consequences

- What would you do as sovereign nation?
 - Have national digital services!
 - Make your own hardware!
 - Make your own software!
 - Have a firewall around your country!
- Not good, but maybe understandable



- What would you do as sovereign nation partnering with the US?
 - Catch up, also get such capabilities
 - **BND**: SIT (Strategische Initiative Technik)
 - **Military** upgrading (Bundeswehr CIR, offensive IT-Sec, Hackback)
 - **ZITiS**: Hacking assistance for German agencies
 - Headed by an ex-BND director, located at Bundeswehr campus in Munich

Players

- Military/IC (NSA, GCHQ, BND, BfV, ZITiS, Bundeswehr)
 - „Offensive is better than defensive.”
- Police (FBI, LKA, BKA, Polizeien)
 - „We want to solve cases, give us hacking tools.”
- HR-Organisations
 - „Western countries finance and export hacking tools.”
- CS (Universities)
 - „IT-Security cannot provide government exceptions.”



Players

- Businesses (Siemens, Huawei, Facebook, Google)
 - „We need good IT security, we stick to local laws.”
- IT security businesses (Norton, Symantec)
 - „Fear is our business”
- Civil IT security agencies (BSI)
 - „We need IT security without exceptions for the networked society.”
- Civil society (ACLU, EFF, CCC, FIF)
 - „We need good (IT) security in a peaceful society. We have division of labour.”




Individual actions?

- Encrypt email?
 - Yes, but...
- Use Signal?
 - Yes, but...
- Delete Facebook?
 - Yes, but...

Individual actions?

- Update regularly?
 - Yes, but...
- Use anti-virus software?
 - Yes, well nooo!!

Self-defense?

SECURITY NONEXPERTS' TOP ONLINE SAFETY PRACTICES	vs	SECURITY EXPERTS' TOP ONLINE SAFETY PRACTICES
1. USE ANTIVIRUS SOFTWARE		1. INSTALL SOFTWARE UPDATES
2. USE STRONG PASSWORDS		2. USE UNIQUE PASSWORDS
3. CHANGE PASSWORDS FREQUENTLY		3. USE TWO-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION
4. ONLY VISIT WEBSITES THEY KNOW		4. USE STRONG PASSWORDS
5. DON'T SHARE PERSONAL INFORMATION		5. USE A PASSWORD MANAGER

<https://security.googleblog.com/2015/07/new-research-comparing-how-security.html>

Three Scenarios

Preparation by examples

Example 1

- Target: Blog of IT security journalist Brian Krebs
- DDoS traffic: 665 Gigabit per second
- Source: Botnet, IoT devices, IP cameras, digital video recorders (DVRs), smart fridges
 - Probably continued working



Preparation by examples

Example 2: WannaCry 2017

- May 2017, four days active, ca. 300.000 systems infected
 - Crypto trojan, Ransomware
- Affected: individuals, companies, hospitals, train systems, mobile providers
- Financial damage: hundred millions to billions USD
- Technical details:
 - Windows exploits: EternalBlue (SMB) and DoublePulsar (kernel)
 - Source: Shadow Brokers (TSB), prob. developed by the NSA “Equation group”, kept in spite of VEP



Wannacry cont.

- Vuln **EternalBlue** still in use
 - Internal DoD criticism
 - NotPetya in Ukraine
 - Last year attacks on public city systems in **Dallas, Los Angeles, New York**
 - Damage: millions of USD and counting

A note on incidents

- Uroburos / Turla / Snake
- 2015**
- Duqu 2.0
 - Parlakom Hack (Netzwerk des dt. Bundestages)
 - Equation Group
- 2016**
- ShadowBroker / Equation Group Hack
 - ProjectSauron / Strider
 - IRONGATE
 - RUAG Spionage Hack
 - BlackEnergy / KillDisk
- 2017**
- Dragonfly
 - Petya / NotPetya / ExPetr / PetrWrap / GoldenEye
 - WannaCry / EternalBlue
- 2018**
- Hack der deutschen Regierungsnetze
 - Sony-Pictures-Entertainment-Hack (The Interview)
 - Stealer / Ajax security team
 - Stuxnet
 - Tailored Access Operations & NSA
 - Tempora und das GCHQ
 - The Mask / Careto
 - Tilded Plattform
 - Uroburos / Turla / Snake
 - WannaCry / EternalBlue
 - XtremeRAT (Nahost-Konflikt)
 - Zero Access



Scenarios

- **Scenario 1: Insecure infrastructure**
 - Software crisis, “Bananaware”
 - Systems largely insecure, no regulation
 - Selective exploitation
- **Scenario 2: Silent Infiltration**
 - Systems are largely hacked/infiltrated
 - Leverage in diplomatic negotiations
 - Industrial espionage, digital domination
- **Scenario 3: Open confrontation**
 - Direct action, concrete attacks
 - Burning buildings, lights out, deaths and mayhem



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Lessons learned

Lessons learned

Everyone **sees** a problem:

- We want to use crypto everywhere, we want data protection everywhere, **clashes** with some business models and LI practices
- Initiative from IGF 2018: Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace (Macron)
 - coordinated vulnerability disclosure and prevention of the proliferation of malicious ICT tools in peacetime
 - France, UK, Germany; **not** USA, China, Israel, Russia
 - Microsoft, Google, Facebook; **not** Apple, Amazon
- Several calls for “Digital Geneva Convention” by Companies

Lessons lost

A note on data protection in the networked society

- DP does not protect data, it protects **people/society**
- Protection targets (also in GDPR)
 - Transparency (of data and processes for DS)
 - Intervenability (of data and processes for DS)
 - Non-linkability (of data from diff. sources)
 - Confidentiality (of data rel. to DS)
 - Integrity (of data rel. to DS)
 - Availability (of data and services for DS)

Lessons lost

- **Safe Harbour Privacy Principles** dropped in 2015 by ECJ because of the US-activities that Snowden revealed
 - Thanks to Max(imilian) Schrems (see noyb.eu)
- Since 2016: **EU-US Privacy Shield**
 - What has changed?
 - Technically probably not much
 - strategic litigation needed?

A note on IT security in the networked society

- If other systems are hacked, everyone is vulnerable
 - There are no “uncritical systems” (anymore)
 - “**Networked society**”
- No one **fully controls** their system, all have vulns in
 - Hardware
 - OS
 - Devices of employees
 - Used libraries/frameworks
- Political problems
 - Missing **knowledge** concerning global effects
 - Low **priority** for those issues

Lessons lost

- We can **invalidate** exploits (compare ABC-Weapons)
 - Export /service control for ICT anyone?
- **NOBUS** (NSAish for Nobody But Us) doesn't work anymore
 - Huge grey market for exploits and services, **legitimized** by state actors
- **Militarisation** of the Internet hurts everyone (Weizenbaum would strongly oppose anyway)
 - No public safety/security without IT security
- In need of **stricter** rules, e.g. time-to-market should not be primary goal
 - Market does not work with hygiene rules, environmental rules, road traffic rules

So far, our Digitalisation is built on sand

So far, our Digitalisation is built on sand...
but we know how to change that:
stricter laws, software liability, decentralized
systems, political education, data protection,
demilitarisation, slow digitalisation, strategic
litigation...

Thank you

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Literature, Links and Leisure

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– <https://snowdenarchive.cjfe.org>
- Anderson, Ross: Security Engineering:
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Digital Security in a Networked World, 2015
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- Documentary “Zero Days”: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt5446858/>
- Now You Know. Vier Jahre Snowden: <https://www.nowyouknow.eu/>

