

Information Privacy and Information Glut

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Roger Clarke: "Privacy is the interest that individuals have in sustaining a 'personal space', free from interference by other people and organisations" [Introduction to Dataveillance and Information Privacy, and Definitions of Terms: <http://www.anu.edu.au/people/Roger.Clarke/DV/Intro.html>]

Clarke further defines four dimensions of privacy: the first two cover such issues as *such matters as sexual preferences, religion, politics and 'media privacy'*. *The third addresses privacy of personal communications and freedom from routine monitoring of interpersonal communications. The fourth addresses privacy of personal data: in particular, control over who can obtain personal information and what can be done with it.*

As security/privacy researchers, we tend to assume the value of privacy-enhancing technologies as a given, and focus on mechanisms and attack code rather than the psychological aspects of a complex and wide-ranging issue. Yet, in the end, security and privacy are people issues, not just bits and bytes.

'Communications Privacy' is a particularly important area in today's world, as everybody is obliged to communicate. In the digital era we live in, communication channels are almost all digital except for verbal, face-to-face communication. Electronic aids are taken for granted because of their convenience and facilitation of communication, with little thought as to how the user unknowingly or knowingly gives up their privacy. Tools created by the security industry as well as legislation created by lawmakers can help secure ones privacy up to a certain point, but the community needs to understand the limitations of such solutions.

In the paper we will go into details of:

- The terrors of messaging
- Libertarianism versus national security
- 'What do you have to hide?'
- Encryption and the individual
- Data and metadata
- Routine surveillance and deep dive by warrant
- Conflation of law enforcement and anti-terrorism
- Social control is not the same as safety or security