

U.S. Data Collection Fact Sheet

(CNN) -- Government surveillance of telephone records and conversations in the name of national security is a controversial topic that goes back decades. Recently there have been reports that the U.S. government is collecting data on private citizens. The data includes telephone records in the United States and some Internet traffic overseas.

The following information explains what the government is collecting, how it affects you, and what the legal debate is about.

1. **I live in the United States. What kinds of records is the government collecting on me?**
 - a. U.S. officials acknowledge collecting domestic telephone records. These records contain the time and date of calls and the telephone numbers involved. The Guardian newspaper also published a secret court order that indicates the government is getting some information that would show locations and specific handsets used in calls.

2. **I live overseas. What might the United States have?**
 - a. If you're a United States citizen or permanent resident overseas, the government says it's not collecting anything on you. Any data the government gets is incidental. Such data is kept under strict controls.
 - b. Director of National Intelligence James Clapper has indirectly confirmed a program called PRISM. This program collects data from overseas customers of large internet service companies like Microsoft, Yahoo, and Google and Apple. The program is designed to collect "audio and video chats, photographs, e-mails, documents" and other materials. The Wall Street Journal reported on the program and has said the data doesn't include the contents of messages.

3. **Is the government listening to my phone calls?**
 - a. Clapper says it's not.

4. **What happens to the records?**
 - a. The telephone records go into a database. They can't be accessed unless a judge gives approval in a national-security investigation.
 - b. Senator Dianne Feinstein is chairwoman of the Senate Intelligence Committee. She said that the records can't be accessed unless the government can show reasonable suspicion that they are relevant to terrorist activity.
 - c. Clapper said the Internet monitoring data is "used to protect our nation from a wide variety of threats."

5. **Why does the government need this information?**

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- a. A senior Obama administration official said that the government needs this information "to discover whether known or suspected terrorists have been in contact with other persons who may be engaged in terrorist activities, particularly people located inside the United States."
- b. Clapper said that the telephone records allow analysts to observe patterns over time and "make connections related to terrorist activities." The Internet data collected overseas is extremely important. It "is used to protect our nation from a wide variety of threats," he said.

6. Who approved these programs?

- a. Officials say both programs have been approved by all three branches of government.
- b. The telephone records collection program was authorized by the Foreign Surveillance Intelligence Court. Clapper said there are strict rules that apply to the program, and it is reviewed every 90 days.
- c. The court is a special judicial office set up as part of the 1978 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). The court operates in secrecy. It reviews requests by intelligence agencies to conduct electronic surveillance and other activities as part of espionage, terrorism and national security investigations.

7. Is it legal?

- a. The FISA Court, Clapper and other administration officials obviously think so. But many privacy advocates and some lawmakers believe this sort of broad data collection goes too far.

8. Has this happened before?

- a. In 2006, reports revealed that the NSA was secretly collecting telephone records to help them discover possible terror plots.
- b. Other programs also raise concerns about government collection of data. Some of these programs go back decades. In fact, abuses by intelligence services led to the passage of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. Its passage was an effort to rein in domestic surveillance practices.

(Lexile - 1370L)

(Adapted from, "How does U.S. data collection affect me?" by Michael Pearson of CNN.

<http://www.cnn.com/2013/06/06/politics/nsa-verizon-records-questions/>)

Graphic Organizer #1

CNN Article: How does US data collection affect me?

| | Evidence from the text | My perspective on the appropriateness of the government's action | My partner's perspective |
|--|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| What specific data is being collected within the US? | | | |
| What type of data is being collected overseas? | | | |
| What process does the government go through to review these records? | | | |



CNN Article: How does US data collection affect me?

| | Evidence from the text | My perspective on the appropriateness of the government's action | My partner's perspective |
|---|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| How does the US government use these records? | | | |
| Is this process legally authorized? | | | |
| There was precedence for this type of data collection. What occurred and what were the results? | | | |



Graphic Organizer #2
“The Eternal Value of Privacy”

Directions: Determine Bruce Schneier’s perspective in his commentary, “The Eternal Value of Privacy.” Record your response below.

1. Schneier’s central claim is:

2. Three key ideas from the article that support his central claim are:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

3. These three key ideas are important to his argument because:

4. Find one fact from the US Data Collection Fact Sheet that supports Schneier’s point of view.

5. Explain why this connection is significant.

Graphic Organizer #3
“NSA’s phone snooping a different kind of creepy”

Directions: Determine Douglas Rushkoff’s perspective in his commentary, “NSA’s phone snooping a different kind of creepy.” Record your response below.

1. Rushkoff’s central claim is:

2. Three key ideas from the article that support his central claim are:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

3. These three key ideas are important to his argument because:

4. Find one fact from the US Data Collection Fact Sheet that supports Rushkoff’s’s point of view.

5. Explain why this connection is significant.

Grade 9 Interim Assessment: Digital Privacy in the 21st Century

Directions:

Answer the questions below on a separate sheet of lined paper. You may refer to the texts, notes and graphic organizers to help you answer the questions.

“The Eternal Value of Privacy” – Bruce Schneier

1. Throughout the text, Schneier discusses “right and wrong” behavior, both on the part of the individual and on the part of the government. According to Schneier, whose “right and wrong” behavior should concern us more – the individual’s or the government’s? Why? Cite evidence from the text to support your response.
2. In paragraph 3 Schneier expresses his concerns about government surveillance with the Latin quote, “*Quis custodiet custodes ipsos?* (‘Who watches the watchers?’)”
 - a. How does the use of the Latin quote impact the reader’s understanding of Schneier’s central idea?
 - b. How might Rushkoff respond to Schneier’s concerns?Cite evidence from both texts to support your responses.
3. How are Schneier’s concerns reflected in the U.S. Data Collection Fact Sheet? Cite evidence from both Schneier and the fact sheet to support your response.

“NSA’s phone snooping a different kind of creepy” – Douglas Rushkoff

1. In paragraph 3, Rushkoff states that the idea that the government would invade our privacy through tracking of our personal conversations and data was once considered paranoid. In paragraph 4, he points out that “we’re all walking around with tracking devices in our pockets...” According to Rushkoff, who is tracking our data and for what purposes? (Consider how their purposes might be similar and/or different.) Cite evidence from the text to support your response.
2. Rushkoff suggests that the government only collects “big data” on us so they can understand general patterns of behavior to determine what is “normal” and what might indicate a threat. In paragraph 6, he states, “We are not the targets so much as the control group¹.”
 - a. What does this statement reveal about Rushkoff’s perspective on the public’s role in government data collection?
 - b. How would Schneier respond to Rushkoff’s statement?Cite evidence from both texts to support your responses.
3. How is Rushkoff’s perspective reflected in the U.S. Data Collection Fact Sheet? Cite evidence from both Rushkoff and the fact sheet to support your response.

1. control group – a group used as a standard of comparison in an experiment

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**Grade 9 Interim Assessment: Digital Privacy in the 21st Century
Writing Task**

Directions:

Please respond to the prompt below in writing. You may use the texts, your graphic organizers and/or constructed response questions to inform your writing.

Writing Prompt

Should digital privacy be an expectation in the 21st century? After reading three texts that deal with digital privacy, write an essay in which you address the question and argue whether we should be able to expect digital privacy in the 21st century. Support your position with evidence from all three texts.

Be Sure To:

- Clearly and concisely state your argument/thesis
- Clearly and concisely state at least two claims with relevant textual evidence that supports your thesis
- Make sure to explain how your evidence supports your claim
- Include a counterclaim with a rebuttal and supporting textual evidence
- Use precise language and vocabulary to explain your argument
- Establish and maintain a formal style
- Provide a concluding section that follows from and supports your explanation

Counterargument Planning

Write your argument/thesis statement: Should digital privacy be an expectation in the 21st century?

Write the counterargument, your rebuttal, evidence you would use to support your rebuttal and how that evidence supports your rebuttal. Your evidence must come from one of the three texts.

Counterargument: _____

Your rebuttal: _____

Evidence: _____

Explain how the evidence supports your rebuttal: _____
