

CS 3001-A: Computing, Society, and Professionalism

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Week 7: Privacy and Governmental Surveillance

February 19, 2024

Midterm

- Next Wednesday!
 - February 28, 2024
 - In-class
 - Closed book, notes, and Internet
 - Syllabus – all material through this Wednesday (Feb 21, 2024)
- This week's recitation – write midterm questions
- Next Monday's lecture – virtual office hours; example questions to work on course website
- No recitation sections next week

Big data meets Big Brother as China moves to rate its citizens


Rachel Botsman

23-29 minutos

On June 14, 2014, the State Council of China published an ominous-sounding document called "Planning Outline for the Construction of a Social Credit System". In the way of Chinese policy documents, it was a lengthy and rather dry affair, but it contained a radical idea. What if there was a national trust score that rated the kind of citizen you were?

A Balancing Act

- Federal, state, and local governments in United States have had significant impact on privacy of individuals
- Government must balance competing desires of citizens
 - desire to be left alone
 - desire for safety and security



Two case examples of this
balancing act...

Solove's Taxonomy of Privacy

- **Information collection:** Activities that gather personal information
- **Information processing:** Activities that store, manipulate, and use personal information that has been collected
- **Information dissemination:** Activities that spread personal information
- **Invasion:** Activities that intrude upon a person's daily life, interrupt someone's solitude, or interfere with decision-making



Information Collection by the Government (Direct)

- Purpose: accountability and fairness


Census Records

- Census required to ensure every state has fair representation
- Number of questions steadily rising
- Sometimes Census Bureau has broken confidentiality requirement
 - World War I: draft resisters
 - World War II: Japanese-Americans

FBI National Crime Information Center

2000


- **NCIC**
 - Collection of databases related to various crimes
 - Contains > 39 million records
- **Successes**
 - Helps police solve hundreds of thousands of cases every year
 - Helped FBI tie James Earl Ray to assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - Helped FBI apprehend Timothy McVeigh for bombing of federal building in Oklahoma City




Discussion Point: What are the downsides of maintaining the NCIC database?

Closed Circuit Television Cameras

- First use in Olean, New York in 1968
- Now more than 30 million cameras in US
- New York City's effort in lower Manhattan
 - \$201 million for 3,000 new cameras
 - License plate readers
 - Radiation detectors



Discussion Point: Are surveillance cameras worthwhile?



Discussion Point: Are surveillance cameras worthwhile? Mixed opinion: ACLU opposition; London bombings in subway in 2005



Challenges of government information collection

Surveillance Camera Images of Boston Marathon Bombing Suspects



Drive for Uber? DC wants to give you a free dash cam

Nick Iannelli | niannelli@wtop.com

June 7, 2023, 5:08 PM



Listen now to WTOP News [WTOP.com](#) | [Alexa](#) | [Google Home](#) | [WTOP App](#) | 103.5 FM

In an effort to put more cameras on the streets to help police investigate crimes, D.C. leaders will be giving away free dash cameras to people who spend a lot of time behind the wheel.

“It is focused on public safety,” D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser said Wednesday.

The cameras will be handed out later this summer at designated locations to drivers who work for food delivery or rideshare companies.



MOTHERBOARD
TECH BY VICE

Airbnb, Lyft, Uber ‘Expressed Interest’ in Using Clearview AI

The tech companies expressed interest in using Clearview AI's technology for identity verification, according to Clearview AI CEO Hoan Ton-That.

POLICY \ POLITICS \ PRIVACY \

Lawmakers call on feds to drop Clearview AI facial recognition contracts

1

The Pentagon and Department of Justice have active contracts with the controversial company

By [Russell Brandom](#) | Feb 9, 2022, 8:12am EST

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Covert Government Surveillance

Wiretapping – J. Edgar Hoover



© Bettmann/CORBIS

First Director of FBI

Privacy Post 9/11

- National security concerns increased significantly after 9/11 attacks

(2006 poll) 70% Americans supported “expanded camera surveillance on streets and in public places”

62% supported “law enforcement monitoring of Internet discussions in chat rooms and other forums”

61% supported “closer monitoring of banking and credit card transactions to trace funding sources”

52% supported “expanded governmental monitoring of cell phones and emails to intercept communications”

Privacy Post 9/11

NSA Wiretapping Post 9/11

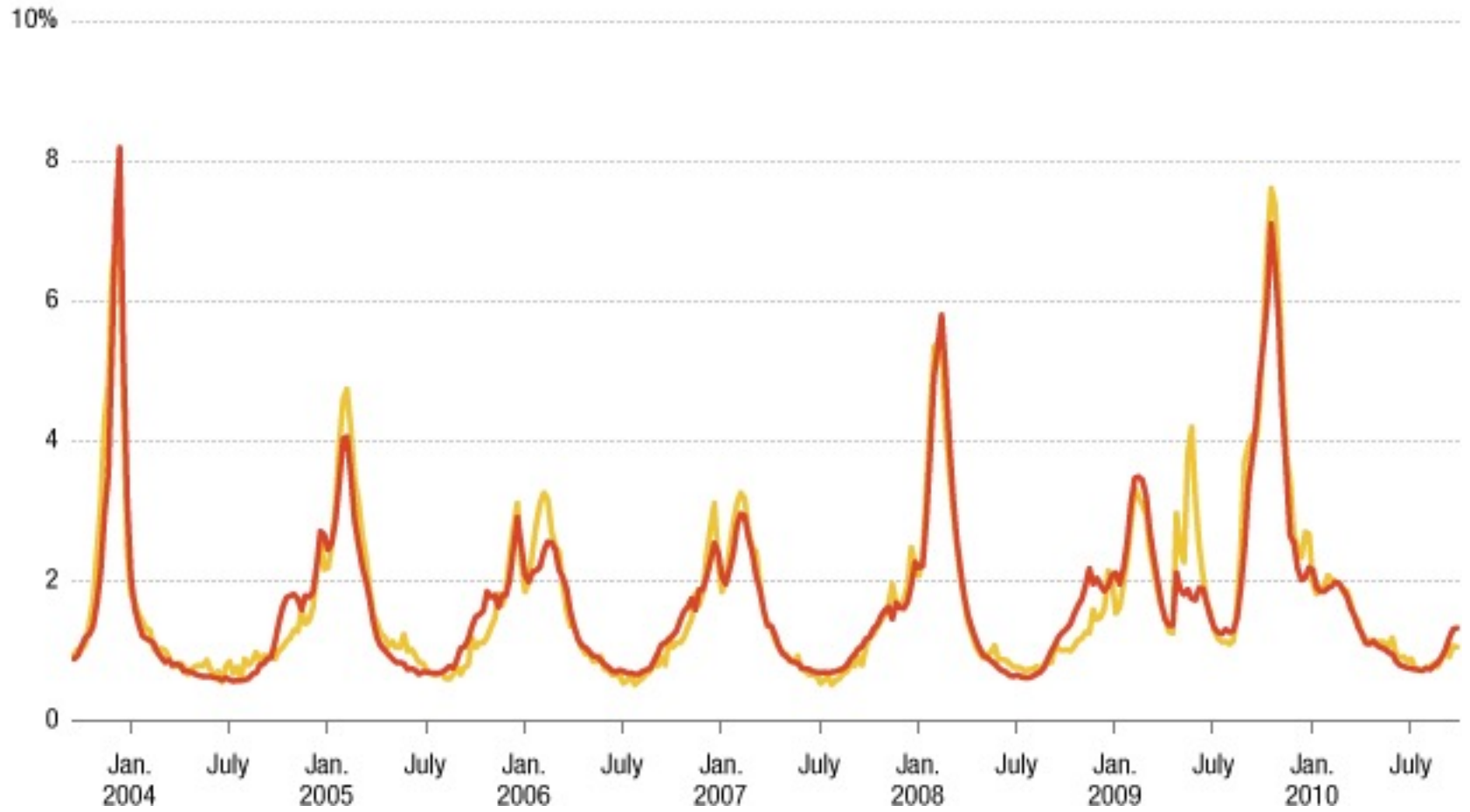


Information Processing/Mining by the Government

Syndromic Surveillance Systems



— Google Flu Tracker — Official report



Contact Tracing: Using Digital Tools

Accessible version: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/open-america/contact-tracing/index.html>

Technology can support case investigation and contact tracing but cannot take the place of the staff who interview, counsel, and provide support for those impacted by COVID-19. There are two key types of technology that can contribute to the contact tracing process: case management tools and proximity tracing/exposure notification tools. This technology guide serves as a companion to the [case investigation workflow](#) and [contact tracing workflow](#).

Types Of Digital Contact Tracing Tools



Case Management

Make the traditional contact tracing process faster and more efficient:


- Streamline the electronic capture and management of data on patients and contacts
- Integrate workflows with surveillance systems or other workforce management tools



Proximity Tracing/Exposure Notification

Identify more contacts than traditional contact tracing alone:

- Use voluntary, opt-in tools in addition to case management tools to augment traditional contact tracing
- Use Bluetooth or GPS technologies to estimate the proximity and duration of an individual's exposure to patients diagnosed with COVID-19




When can information
processing/data mining by the
Government go wrong?



The
Intercept_

**THE NSA'S
SECRET ROLE IN
THE U.S.
ASSASSINATION
PROGRAM**





Government Legislation
restricting information
dissemination

Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)