

Presentation Script – Privacy Rights vs. National Security

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Sunday, July 4, 2016

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(Word Count: 680 Words)

### **Introduction**

Hi, I am Albert. Today I am going to talk about an argumentative issue in this digital era, and this topic is becoming even more controversial in recent years after Edward Snowden leaked National Security Agency (NSA) PRISM spying scandal to the public. This presentation is to share my perspective on this debate based on the course content — Mobile Privacy and Surveillance.

### **What is “PRISM”?**

According to the information provided by NSA official website. PRISM is a surveillance program that NSA launched in 2007 for collecting metadata, which allows the U.S. intelligence community to acquire the access from nine Internet and technology companies to a wide range of digital information, including e-mails, video, and audio contents, on foreign targets operating outside of the United States. PRISM is court-approved but does not require to get the individual warrants (Gellman & Poitras, 2013).

Moreover, Edward Snowden, a former CIA employee, and contractor for the U.S. Government leaked more details about the PRISM that NSA is abusing their authorities because some decisions made in secret without public awareness and consent and even without representatives of the government. For example, NSA has collected all phone calls made on Verizon’s network. And other similar issues have also violated the laws and citizen’s privacy rights (Snowden, 2014).

## **President Obama Defend for NSA**

After Snowden revealed these classified information about PRISM Program of NSA in Hong Kong. Soon, the American President Obama responded to this spying scandal: “You can’t have one hundred percent security and also then have one hundred percent privacy and zero inconveniences... We’re going to have to make some choices” (Baker & Sanger, 2013). This statement seems to be true because the NSA need the metadata to identify potential leads on people who might engage in terrorists.

## **What Should We Choose**

As has become far too evident with the terrorist attacks we witnessed in many places, Ottawa, Paris, Brussels, San Bernardino, and Orlando, our safety is not guaranteed. As citizens, we often take for granted that the government will keep us out of dangerous threats from terrorists. But at what cost? Technology is ruling our lives, continues to grow, and we increasingly rely on our devices to communicate, work, and manage our day-to-day routines. That raises the question of “what access the government should have to our information?” will giving the government that access make us safer or is the infringement on our privacy too high a price to pay?

## **Worthless Pay for National Security**

In 2014, Snowden appeared by the telepresence robot in the TED Talks, and he has pointed out that the results of these surveillance programs in stopping the terrorism is unfounded. He mentioned that the first federal open court reviewed the results outside the secrecy arrangement, called these programs Orwellian and likely unconstitutional. Congress have the access to be briefed on these things and now has the desire to be, and have produced bills to reform it, and two

independent White House panels which reviewed all of the classified evidence and documents said these surveillance programs have never prevented a single terrorist attack that was imminent in the United States (Snowden, 2014).

### **Edward Snowden's Impacts to The Public**

There are many aspects impacts that Snowden brought to this society, there are two things that I considered are most important to our society.

There are over thirteen countries included Canada in worldwide, 71% of people are strongly opposed to the US government spying on the Internet use in their country. More than 59% are against their government spying on the Internet and phone activity in their country. 60% of people believe technology companies should improve the security of their communications to prevent the surveillance from the government (Amnesty, 2015).

Additionally, several major technology companies including Google, Apple, and Microsoft request the reforming the Internet monitoring legislations. And all of them has improved the default security and encryption provided to their users to against NSA spying program (Kerr, 2013). As a result, greater consumer pressure has pushed the industry to strength it approaches to protecting users' privacy.

### **Ending**

This is the reference of this presentation, if you interested in this topic, you can use these resources to learn further about this topic. Thanks for your participation.

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