

Horror Stories from Digiland

~ Theodotos Andreou ~

Cyprus FOSS Community
www.ellak.org.cy

Digital Rights Activists



Photo: Jodie McGrath

Notable Examples

2005 – Sony Rootkit

- Installation from music Sony CDs after accepting the EULA terms
- Discovered by Mark Russinovich:
 - **Back-doors**
 - Resource Usage
 - System Instability
 - Uninstallation not possible

2010 – Lower Merion School

- MacBook Laptops were provided to Students by the School
- The MacBooks were equipped with antitheft software
- Camera could operate without the blinking LED light
- A photo of a student in his bedroom (!) ended up in the school's teacher board

Anything weird?



Photo: Facebook

2010 – Afgan War Logs

- Leak from Chelsea Manning and published via Wikileaks
- War crimes varied from bombing civilians, to torture and child molesting
- No conviction of the perpetrators
- Chelsea Manning was convicted as a traitor by the USA
- Julian Assange of Wikileaks faces extradition to the USA



Photo: Chelsea Manning

Shooting the Messenger



Source:
BreakBrunch.com

2012 – Target Corporation Pregnancy Scandal

- A pregnant teen girl was looking for pregnancy products.
- Target deduced from these data that the girl is pregnant
- Target sends a congratulation mail with pregnancy products to, what they thought it was, her email
- The email ended up in the girl's father mailbox
- Ooops!

2013 - PRISM

- One of the most notable cases of mass surveillance
- A work of the notorious NSA
- Cooperation with Tech „Giants“
- Exposed by Edward Snowden in cooperation with Glenn Greenward



Photo: Laura Poitras /
Praxis Films

2013 - PRISM

TOP SECRET//SI//ORCON//NOFORN



Hotmail®

YAHOO!

Google™



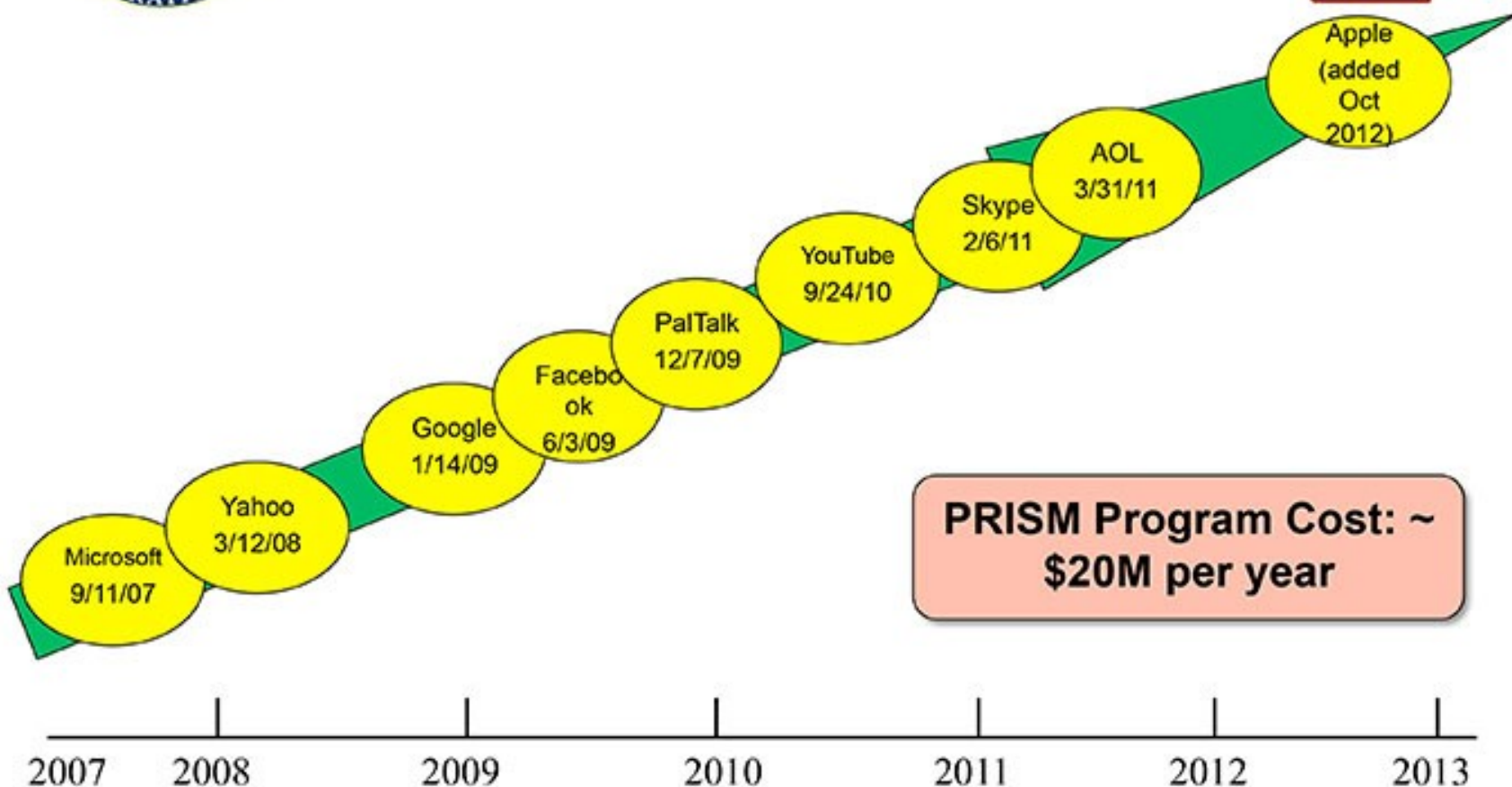
skype

paltalk.com

YouTube

AOL mail

(TS//SI//NF) Dates When PRISM Collection Began For Each Provider



**PRISM Program Cost: ~
\$20M per year**

TOP SECRET//SI//ORCON//NOFORN

2017 - Dropbox

- Bad record of privacy violations
- In 2017 „deleted“ files appeared in users' profiles

„Once you publish something on the web, if it has some original content, or if it is of some interest, it goes forth and multiplies.“

~ Fravia ~

Facebook



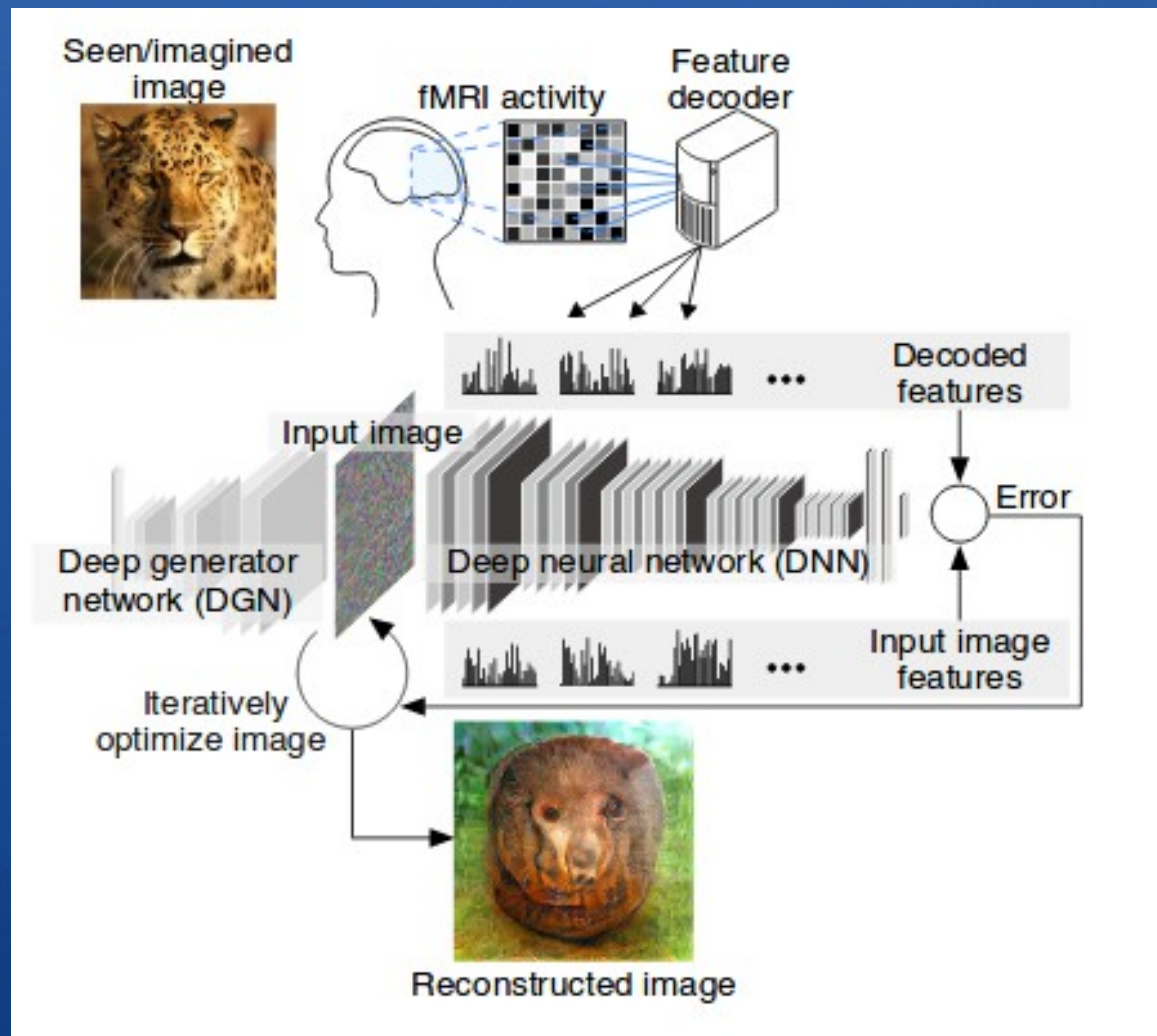
Source: 9gag

2018 - Cambridge Analytica/ Facebook

- CA collected, through a „personality test“ in Facebook, the political profiles of the users:
 - For „academic purposes“.
 - Without the users' consent.
- Profiles of 230 million Americans.
- The data was used for targetted advertising in support of the Trump election campaign.
- Similar tactics were used in the Brexit referendum.

#deletefacebook

Decoding the human mind – fMRI



State Surveillance

Examples of State Surveillance

- 1996 – Echelon („Five Eyes“)
 - Exposed by Nicky Hager
- 2002 – Trailblazer (NSA, USA)
 - Exposed by Willian Binney and others
- 2003 – PRISM (NSA, USA)
 - Exposed by Edward Snowden and Glenn Greenwald
- 2017 – Vault 7 (CIA, USA)
 - Exposed by Wikileaks



Walled Gardens



Centralised Services

- **G**oogle
- **A**mazn
- **F**acebook
- **A**pple
- **M**icrosoft
- Twitter
- Dropbox
- Viber
- ...



You are Facebook's product, not the customer!

Facebook users are being sold to the advertisers and market research firms, who are the real customers.

~ Douglas Rushkoff ~





Digital Devices



Our devices

- Computers (Windows, Apple, ...)
- „Smart“ Phones/Tablets (Apple, Google, ...)
- „Smart“ TVs (Samsung, Vizio, ...)
- „Smart“ Homes (Amazon Echo, ...)
- „Smart“ Cars (Telsa, VW, ...)
- „Smart“ Watches
- Ebook readers (Amazon Kindle, ...)
- Fitness monitors
- Internet of Things (IoT)



Threats to Democracy



Political Nightmares

- 2010 – ~~ACTA~~
- 2011 – ~~SOPA~~
- 2011 – ~~PIPA~~
- 2011 – CISPA (Successor of SOPA)
- 2012 – TPP (defunct, USA withdrawn from the deal)
- 2014 – **CISA** (Youbetrayedus.org)
- 2014 – **CETA**
- 2014 – TTIP
- 2017 – Net Neutrality (Net Neutrality revoked in USA)
- 2019 – **EU Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market (Articles 11/13/17)**

Youbetrayedus.org

- Reaction to CISA
- Information Exchange of citizens Internet usage between USA and other States
- BSA openly supported this proposal:



Microsoft



Adobe

ORACLE®



Symantec



AUTODESK



#SaveYourInternet

- An initiative against Article 17 (formerly Article 13) of the EU Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market
- Shows how MEPs of different countries have voted
- <https://saveyourinternet.eu/>

Internet Censorship

- China (Great Firewall of China)
- Russia
- Turkey
- Arab world
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom
- USA (violation of Net Neutrality)
- European Union (Copyright Reform Article 13/17)
- ...



Fight Back



What do I care?

- I have nothing to hide!
- If you have nothing to hide, you have nothing to fear!
- It's hopeless.
- **NO!**
- **Privacy is a Human Right!**

„Nothing to Hide“ Argument

If someone argues that „I have nothing to hide“ then give them your email and ask them to send you their credentials for Facebook, Gmail, etc.

~ Glenn Greenward ~

Arguing that you don't care about the right to privacy because you have nothing to hide is no different than saying you don't care about free speech because you have nothing to say.

~ Edward Snowden ~

Do's and Dont's

- Use Free/Libre Software as much as possible
- Use Decentralised Services/Systems
 - Social Networks (Diaspora, Mastodon, ...)
 - Communications (GNU Jami, Tox, Riot/Matrix, ...)
 - P2P networking (GUnet, Freenet, Zeronet, ...)
 - Filesharing (IPFS, Syncthing, ...)
 - Currency (Bitcoin, Ethereum, ...)
- Encrypt Everything (GPG, Tomb, Veracrypt, ...)
- Always use **HTTPS** and TLS for communications
- Use End-to-End encryption (GNU Jami, Tox, OTR, OMEMO, ...)
- Use anonymity services for browsing (TOR, I2P, Anonymous VPNs)
- Use services with Client-Side Encryption (Protonmail, MEGA, ...)
- Important Browser plugins (uBlock Origin, Privacy Badger, ...)
- Avoid Walled Gardens/Centralised Services

Rysiek's Law

If it's technically possible, it's practically unavoidable.

~ Michał "rysiek" Woźniak ~

- Use products and services that protect your privacy as much as possible

Our Goal

Use and develop technologies that provide:

- Protection of Privacy
- Transparency in Public



Need Help?



Digital Rights Organizations

- Electronic Frontier Foundation – EFF (USA)
- Free Software Foundation – FSF (USA)
- European Digital Rights – EDRi (EU)
- Free Software Foundation Europe – FSFE (EU)
- Creative Commons (USA - World)
- Cyprus FOSS Community (ellak.org.cy)



**The web was made for sharing, not for
hoarding and not for selling.**

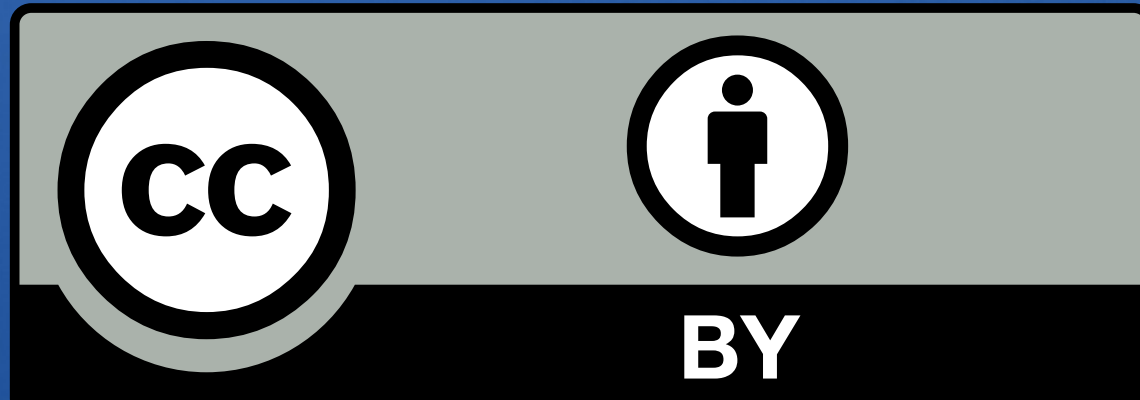
~ Fravia ~



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<https://www.theo-andreou.org/?p=1845>