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August 20, 2013

Acknowledgement

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The survey and the report prepared is an effort of our vibrant team. Firstly we thank our entire team for their valuable contribution to make this report a talk among everyone. We sincerely acknowledge the interest shown in our survey by our teachers, friends and other people who willingly shared their opinion on the privacy issues in social networking sites, they believe in. Their contribution has helped us in drawing a conclusion about the various threats faced by users of social networking sites.

Preface

This report presents findings about the various kinds of privacy issues and threats faced by users of social networking sites. The main objective of the survey was to get information on levels of usage of social networking sites among different age groups of people over a specific period of time. A total of 75 people of various category such as college students, school students, teachers, engineers, householders were surveyed.

We have performed this survey in both micro and macro levels. At the micro-level, our survey begins with an individual, snowballing as social relationships are traced, or we started with a small group of individuals in a particular social context. Rather than tracing interpersonal interactions, at macro-level analysis we traced the outcomes of interactions, such as economic or other resource transfer interactions over a group of people.

The questionnaires covered a wide range of areas dealing in detail about all possible threats that would have been encountered by the users. We collected information on a wide range of characteristics such as what type of information is mainly shared by users and with whom. The information on the characteristics of the communities have been analyzed and presented in a separate report.

Numerous studies and research is being conducted nowadays on privacy issues in social networking sites. Various fields where they conduct study on social networking issues are :

- **ORGANISATIONAL STUDIES:**

Research studies of formal or informal organizational relationships, organizational communication, economics, economic sociology, and other resource transfers. Social networks have also been used to examine how organizations interact with each other, characterizing the many informal connections that link executives together, as well as associations and connections between individual employees at different organizations.

Intra-organizational networks have been found to affect organizational commitment, organizational identification, interpersonal citizenship behaviour.

- **SOCIAL CAPITAL:**

Social capital is a sociological concept which refers to the value of social relations and the role of cooperation and confidence to achieve positive outcomes. The term refers to the value one can get from their social ties. For example, newly arrived immigrants can make use of their social ties to established migrants to acquire jobs they may otherwise have trouble getting (e.g., because of lack of knowledge of language).

Studies show that a positive relationship exists between social capital and the intensity of social network use.

- **HUMAN ECOLOGY:**

Human ecology is an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary study of the relationship between humans and their natural, social, and built environments.

In criminology and urban sociology, much attention has been paid to the social networks among criminal actors.

It is expected that this report will be a useful source of information to policy makers, academicians and other stakeholders. It will also facilitate planning within the government and the business community and will stimulate further research and analysis.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

This survey report presents latest information from the general lifestyle survey . The topic for the survey was social networking privacy issues . Survey was mainly conducted for people of all ages from all walks of life. The survey was aimed at finding the amount of trust people have on various sites and amount of information people share. The survey was conducted by circulating a questionnaire among people and representing their answers in form of pie diagrams and bar graphs. Generally people supply all kinds of information on the sites including their personal information , photographs , contact details and so on.

They also consider that these details provided by them are secure and people other than their friends do not know these. But on the contrary the site developer's team maintains a database of the kind of information shared by people along with their details and may use them whenever needed. This is done with the consent of the particular person but it often goes unnoticed by the people because they do not read the license agreement of the company fully instead they agree to the terms and conditions of the company.

Our survey comprises of the following sections - title page , executive summary of the survey , content page, our methodology using which we conducted our survey , the results and findings of our survey , the conclusions which were drawn from the survey , our recommendations and suggestions , appendices , bibliography and acknowledgements.

Our survey questionnaire exposed people to various kinds of information which they might

generally not come across in their day to day basis while using these sites. Our survey mainly targeted fragile security issues which are a cause of concern for the people. The survey showed that almost 70% of the people were unaware of the security measures that could be taken to maintain their privacy. We mainly wanted to make people know that their ids and passwords are not actually meant for their privacy. Though they keep them secure to certain extent they do not prevent the companies from using this code and accessing the users private information.

Instead the TOR (the onion router) can be used so that the identity of the user remains hidden from the company's perspective and hence the user can stay more private from the service provider.

Even sites like diaspora can be used by people in which their information remains secure and safe and no other person can access it without the consent of the particular user. These options can be implemented because the results from our survey show that people share more personal information like their photos , relationship status , contact details etc on these sites which might cause them trouble if not handled properly.

Moreover we also have supporting pie charts and bar graphs to stress on the same. These show that people are unaware of various security issues and are still using these sites by fully trusting them.

Our recommendations gives an insight into various other options which can be used for the benefit of the society .

Our survey was mainly conducted for the purpose of benefitting the society by throwing light into the issues they are unaware of and also providing them with solutions for the same.

We also have an appendix to provide insight into various terminologies used in our survey.

Also we have an bibliography and acknowledgement that coincides with the content provided in our survey.

On the whole our survey completely addresses all issues concerned with the topic and also provides solutions and recommendations which can be followed by the people to keep them secure at all times.

Chapter 2

Methodology

We mainly concentrated on two methodologies - Questionnaires and Discussions

1. Questionnaire

We created fifty copies of our questionnaires. I will be attaching the set of questions asked.

2. Discussions

After having the group discussions in our class, a new sense of confidence grew within us. We conducted several discussions among ourselves on what kind of conclusions would arise from this survey report. And how each result could be used to draw some kind of a conclusion.

3. Interviews

We interviewed a few people and included the results of the same in our analysis as well. All the people we interviewed were mostly people working currently. Notably :

- Asst. Prof Bama Ma'am, Dept of IST, CEG
- Sibi Chakravarthy - IAS Aspirant
- Prasanth Radhakrishnan - Sub Editor Hindu
- Welkin - Entrepreneur

Chapter 3

Question 1



1.png

Figure 3.1: Richard Stallman and Julien Assange

Conclusions

We must opt out of global data surveillance programs like PRISM, XKeyscore and Tempora. Stop governments from spying on you by encrypting our communications and ending our reliance on proprietary services. Here is a timeline of the companies that joined the Prism Project.

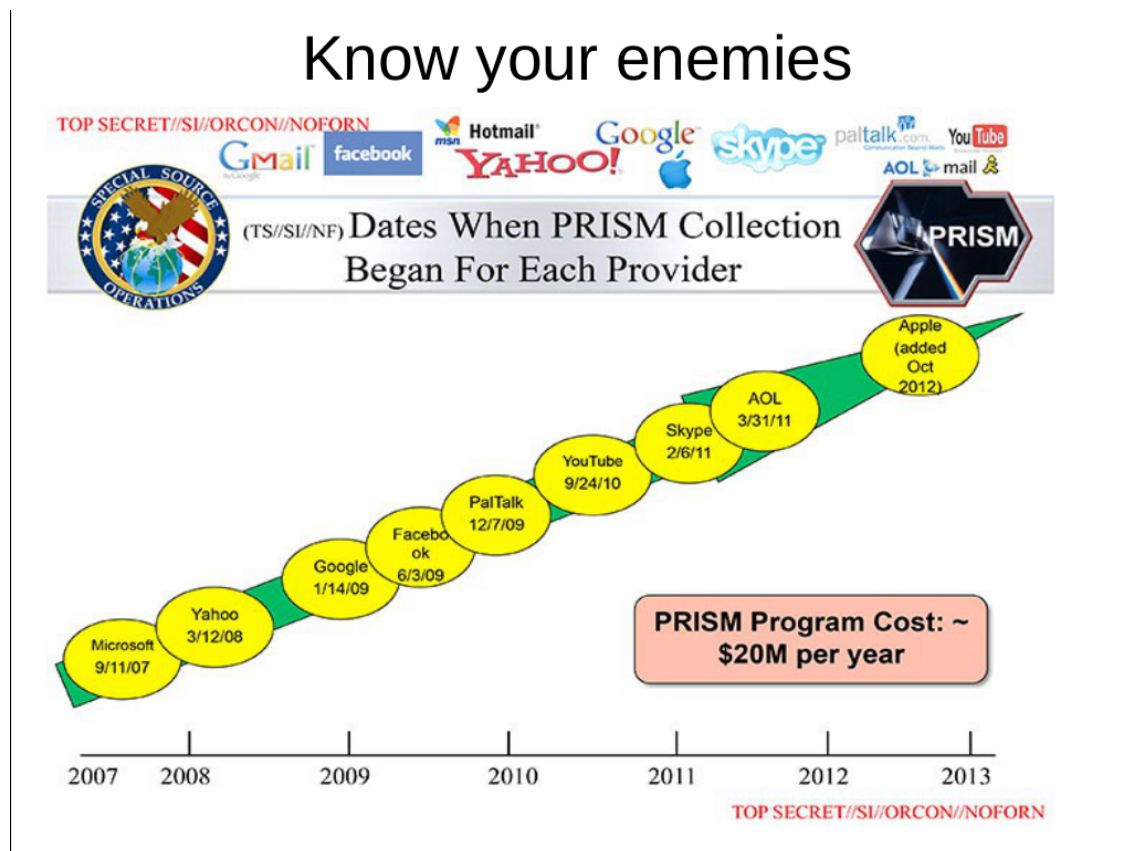


Figure 4.1: Prism Project Timeline

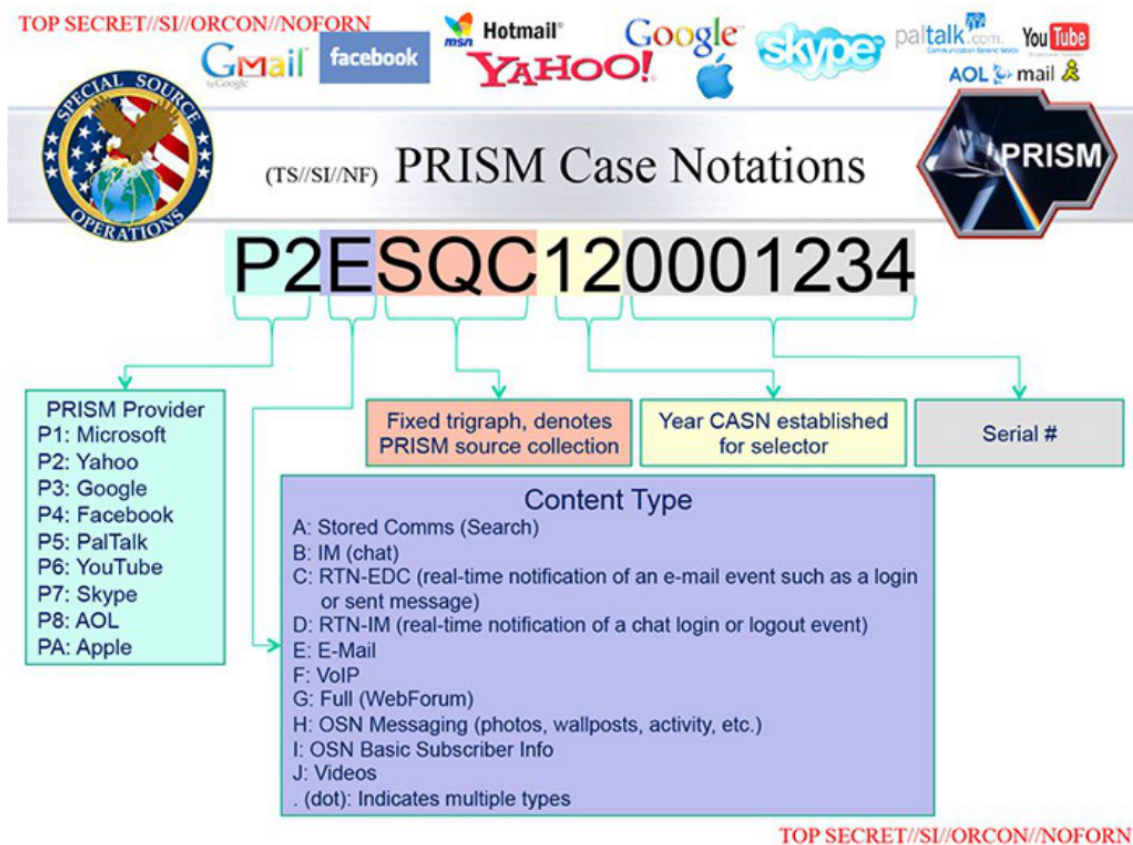


Figure 4.2: Notations used in the Prism Project

Here is a list of a few greats who took steps much bigger than what we are taking. They took it up as a challenge at fought for one major cause. . .

Knowledge is free

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| • Aaron Swartz | JSTOR |
| • Bradley Manning | War logs |
| • Julian Assange | WikiLeaks |
| • Laura Poitras | My Country, My Country |
| • Jeremy Hammond | Stratfor |
| • Jacob Appelbaum | TOR/WikiLeaks |
| • Edward Snowden | PRISM-break |

Here is what was their fate.

It feels really sad to see their current state. Whatever they have done, would help the world become a better place in the years to come.

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| • Aaron Swartz | Forced to suicide |
| • Bradley Manning | At least 50 yrs in prison |
| • Julian Assange | House arrest, asylum |
| • Laura Poitras | Censored, detained |
| • Jeremy Hammond | Decade in prison |
| • Jacob Appelbaum | Under surveillance, detained |
| • Edward Snowden | In exile, uncertain |

We take pride in the fact that we have a role in making the internet a safer place as well.

We are telling people that they shouldn't blindly trust some random third person they have never met. Trusting someone you know is a much better option.

These two public figures are shown to Back Edward Snowden for his great contribution. If not for his contributions, the world would not have known about these “Cyber Atrocities” committed by the NSA.



Figure 4.3: Richard Stallman and Julien Assange

Chapter 5

Recommendations

A recommendation is anything that serves to recommend a person or thing, or induce acceptance or favor.

Source: Dictionary.reference.com

So what big thing did we find that we are going to recommend changes?

- The first recommendation would be, many are still not aware of the Social Networking Problems. We need to hold proper rallies, campaigns to help people understand the problem they are in.
- People rely on one solution too much. It is a bad business strategy and kills competition. Most citizens are oblivious to this fact.
- Setting up a server in our campus. For Diaspora, Gitlab would do a lot of good.
- *Knowledge must be free, always* . (Free as in freedom) . There should be no digital restrictions on knowledge. Books must not have digital laws binding them, saying that I should not give it to anyone.

Chapter 6

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Chapter 7

Appendix A - Glossary

FSF : Free software foundation

FSFTN : Free software Foundation Tamil Nadu

Diaspora : Its a distributed Social network

Duckduckgo : A search engine, supposed to be better than google in terms of encryption

FSMK : Free software movement Karnataka

TOR: Its a network which supports privacy by policy, and not by trust.

Chapter 8

Appendix B- Survey Questions

Chapter 9

Appendix C -Survey result sheet