J = Journalist

ES = Edward Snowden

J - So, Snowed is a Hacktivist currently exiled in Russia for having leaked very sensitive information from the NSA and the CIA, but why did he do that, this is what we are going to cover in this interview.

1 Intro questions {

J – Hello Mr Snowden, how are you?

ES – Fine and you?

J – Fine, So where were you born?

ES – I was born in America

J – what where you employed to do at the NSA?

ES – I was a Central Intelligence Agency Employee

J – And what is the role of this Agency?

ES – This Agency deals with security in many big countries such as USA and Europe

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2 J – Despite the fact that you are currently exiled In Russia, do you still refer to America as your home?

ES – Yes and I’ll always be willing to come back the day that the government guarantees that every single whistle blower has the right to say what they did and why they did what they did.

3J – If you had to be punished for your act, you said that you would expect and accept a certain kind of punishment, what kind of punishment would you accept? Would you accept it if you were asked to secure a company’s website?

ES – I would volunteer for that, without even asking them to pay, remember I volunteered to work for the CIA, for the NSA, but when it came to revealing mass surveillance which the court found was unlawful on the government, one court said it was possibly unconstitutional.

J – How has your opinion changed about Mr Putin since you’ve been in Russia?

ES – I don’t think it’s changed, the question might presume that I had a positive opinion at some point of him that he’s an authoritarian leader. I don’t think the Russian government has got a good record on human rights and that hasn’t changed.

J – How odd is it that now you’re there, consensus here has hardened that they interfered in the last presidential election?

ES – I don’t think that’s especially surprising, there was an article published in the New York Times and in the Washington Post about electoral interference and looking at Russian history and soviet union electoral interference by intelligence agencies and they found I think 36 different cases of electoral interference over roughly the past 50 years.

4 J – Why not stay in this country and face the music if you believed the strength of your convictions?

ES – This is a very interesting question, because it depends of the music your playing, I have been charged, as a whistle blower, a very particular crime, *this is a violation of the Espionage Act of 1917* and this law prohibits a meaningful defence in court. It was made to condemn people like me, so if one told something to a journalist that the government considers highly classified it will be seen as a crime regardless that it was in the public’s interest to know. The jury is explicitly forbidden from considering why you revealed the information, or if it resulted in a public benefit. I was right not to stay and wait for an inevitable arrest because of the laws and the way they’re enforced today are not same as they were in the 1970s.

5 J – So how did you do to reveal the information to the press?

ES – Well I didn’t give the documents straight to the journalists, I set up a meta data list on which they could go and look. If they found an interesting story, not because it would do a buzz or incriminate somebody, and that they were ready to stand up for it, they had to tell the government that they were going to publish this story and ask their approval before doing so.

6 J – And did they respect your rules?

ES – Yes, surprisingly enough, they followed it to the letter.

7 J – Are there any other reasons why you decided to release this metadata?

ES – Yes, it is also to show how the government does it for reasons of power, influence, economical control, planning ahead. The government has and is still collecting millions and millions of phone calls, e-mails, social interactions, documents, and many more elements that we do on our phone, computers and any electronical device that can run a program.

8 J – did the revelation of your acts have an impact on your wife?

ES – Well at the beginning, in the week of revelations of mass surveillance in 2013, she was thoroughly investigated by the United States, the FBI, and she did not know anything of what I did, because if I had, they would have said that she was an accessory in crime, or part of a criminal conspiracy, but she stuck by me and we are reunited today, and I’ll never be able to repay her for the faith she held in me.

9 J – If you had to do it again, would you?

ES – Yes, I would, because I think it is necessary to inform the public of what the government is capable of and they should not be allowed to get away with it.

10 J – Do you think that at some point you will return to the United States and live the rest of your life?

ES – Yes I do, from all the accusations I received in 2013 and now we look at the world today, yes there are many still who don’t like me, but far far fewer, because we have seen that all the harm that they alleged would happen over the course of these years never came to pass. But the benefits are becoming clearer with each passing year. The question that I think people have to answer, is not whether you like me as a person or not, or agree with how I did what I did or with the work of the journalists who decided what the public should know in order to cast their votes. Today you know that the government broke the law, you know the government of the United States violated the constitution and the rights of people in this country and around the world. The question is would you rather not know?