When it comes down to it, almost everyone has a problem when it comes to people who try and get into other people’s business. Having two brothers this tends to happen, I might be texting or using Facebook then one of my brothers comes behind me and starts reading what I’m typing or I’m the one trying to see what’s going on. Either way it is annoying. The Patriot Act was enacted to prevent any further catastrophes like 9/11 from occurring again. Under the Patriot Act government agencies were given the ability to wiretap people’s communication devices (**Uddin, 2013**). This was put into place to protect the people of the United States; however, it has become more of a problem to citizens than good. In a society where it is frowned upon for others to eavesdrop on other people’s conversation the government should not be able to do so either.

Although it was a good idea it is not any more. Wiretapping, is not something that should be done anymore. The government should not listen in on phone calls of people who are completely innocent and have nothing to hide or pose no danger to anyone. I do however agree that people who do bring up red flags should be under strict scrutiny. But most of the time it’s going to be very difficult to justify listening in on other people’s conversations. For instance, with the San Bernardino shooting, which how this happened and how they let the people who committed this shooting into the US and beyond me. If they had wiretapped they would probably have been able to pick up on things that were being said over the phone. Stuff that would have definitely raised some red flags and have possible had authorities or homeland security knocking and or blowing their door down. Another issue that I heard on the news later was that one of the assailants made Facebook posts and was openly supporting radical Islam (**Lecher, 2015**). The fact that these posts were up during the time that they had applied for a visa and actually gotten accepted is beyond me and proves that the government listening in on people’s conversations is a waste of time.

People are only not saying that social media should be used to used to see whether people are dangerous or not. This would have been a lot more helpful had this actually been done at the time. According to the principle of utility, the tendency of an object to produce happiness or prevent unhappiness for an individual or community (Quinn). The government listening in on our conversations no longer has the same utility as it once did. Much like they should have done and will probably do from now on the government should make use of social media accounts to see if anything throws up red flags.

The information age is happening now. Everything is on line and will be there forever. Listening in on people’s conversations should not be done anymore. It no longer keeps people safe and all other resources that are being put into this should be moved else where to better protect citizens. In a society where it is frowned upon for others to listen in on other people’s conversations, the government should not be able to do so either.

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