Resist NSA Surveillance

Since details about the PRISM surveillance program emerged, many are concerned about the privacy of online activity. Use these free and easy-to-implement techniques to safeguard your privacy when communicating online.

Anonymous Web Browsing with Tor

Tor directs Internet traffic through a free, worldwide volunteer network consisting of thousands of relays. Using Tor makes it more difficult to trace Internet activity by obscuring the source of the activity, and by encrypting the content of the activity while it is en route.

1. Go to the Tor Project site and download the Tor Browser Bundle
https://www.torproject.org/projects/torbrowser.html.en
2. Follow the installation instructions on this page. The Tor Browser is easy to install on Windows, Mac OS X, and Linux.
3. Start the Tor Browser. After connecting to the Tor network, it will launch a Tor Browser. You are now browsing anonymously!

Off-the-Record Instant Messaging

Off-the-Record (OTR) instant messaging uses encryption and buddy authentication to conduct secure, private conversations over many chat systems, including gchat and Facebook Messenger. Install a stand-alone chat client with OTR capabilities to keep your chats obscured.
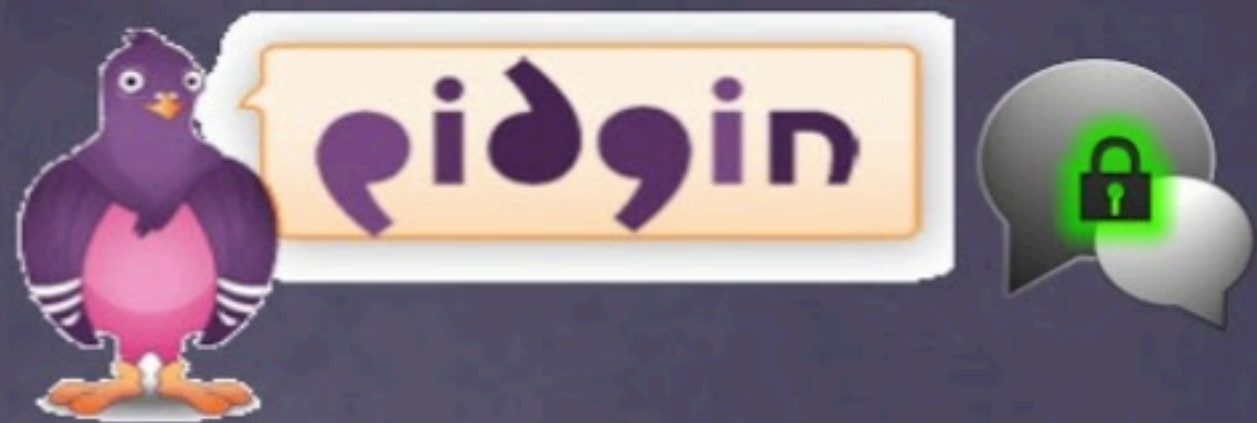
1. Download and install a chat client that supports OTR chatting. Aduim is preferred for Mac OS X users, and Pidgin is preferred for Windows and Linux users. http://adium.im and https://pidgin.im
2. If using Pidgin, you must install the OTR plugin, found at http://www.cypherpunks.ca/otr/
3. Enable OTR encryption in your chat client, and chat securely!

Encrypted Email with PGP

Sending secure emails with PGP encryption allows you to protect your email communications from being read by a third party. PGP allows two people to exchange public keys and establish a private email channel Sending emails in this way requires installing a stand-alone email client and some additional plug-ins, but is well worth the effort.

1. Install Thunderbird
https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/thunderbird
2. Install software that generates keys.
Windows: http://www.gpg4win.org
Mac OSX users: https://gpgtools.org
3. In Thunderbird, go to Tools->Add-ons and install Enigmail
4. In Thunderbird, go to OpenPGP->Setup wizard
5. Exchange public keys and your emails are private!

Sources and resources:

https://www.torproject.org/projects/torbrowser.html.en
http://pidgin.im/
https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/thunderbird/
http://www.enigmail.net/home/index.php

http://adium.im/index.php
http://www.cypherpunks.ca/otr/
http://www.gpg4win.org/
https://gpgtools.org/