

where there had been an invasion—a technical trespass—electronic surveillance was deemed subject to Fourth Amendment restrictions.³⁸

The Court later rejected this approach. “The premise that property interests control the right of the government to search and seize has been discredited. . . . We have recognized that the principal object of the Fourth Amendment is the protection of privacy rather than property, and have increasingly discarded fictional and procedural barriers rested on property concepts.”³⁹ Thus, because the Amendment “protects people, not places,” the requirement of actual physical trespass is dispensed with and electronic surveillance was made subject to the Amendment’s requirements.⁴⁰

The new test, propounded in *Katz v. United States*, is whether there is an expectation of privacy upon which one may “justifiably” rely.⁴¹ “What a person knowingly exposes to the public, even in his own home or office, is not a subject of Fourth Amendment protection. But what he seeks to preserve as private, even in an area accessible to the public, may be constitutionally protected.”⁴² That is, the “capacity to claim the protection of the Amendment depends not upon a property right in the invaded place but upon whether the area was one in which there was reasonable expectation of freedom from governmental intrusion.”⁴³

³⁸ *Silverman v. United States*, 365 U.S. 505 (1961) (spike mike pushed through a party wall until it hit a heating duct).

³⁹ *Warden v. Hayden*, 387 U.S. 294, 304 (1967).

⁴⁰ *Katz v. United States*, 389 U.S. 347, 353 (1967) (warrantless use of listening and recording device placed on outside of phone booth violates Fourth Amendment). See also *Kyllo v. United States*, 533 U.S. 27, 32–33 (2001) (holding presumptively unreasonable the warrantless use of a thermal imaging device to detect activity within a home by measuring heat outside the home, and noting that a contrary holding would permit developments in police technology “to erode the privacy guaranteed by the Fourth Amendment.”)

⁴¹ 389 U.S. at 353. Justice Harlan, concurring, formulated a two pronged test for determining whether the privacy interest is paramount: “first that a person have exhibited an actual (subjective) expectation of privacy and, second, that the expectation be one that society is prepared to recognize as ‘reasonable.’” *Id.* at 361.

⁴² 389 U.S. at 351–52.

⁴³ *Mancusi v. DeForte*, 392 U.S. 364, 368 (1968) (official had a reasonable expectation of privacy in an office he shared with others, although he owned neither the premises nor the papers seized). *Minnesota v. Olson*, 495 U.S. 91 (1990) (overnight guest in home has a reasonable expectation of privacy). *But cf.* *Minnesota v. Carter*, 525 U.S. 83 (1998) (a person present in someone else’s apartment for only a few hours for the purpose of bagging cocaine for later sale has no legitimate expectation of privacy); *Cf. Rakas v. Illinois*, 439 U.S. 128 (1978) (auto passengers demonstrated no legitimate expectation of privacy in glove compartment or under seat of auto). Property rights are still protected by the Amendment, however. A “seizure” of property can occur when there is some meaningful interference with an individual’s possessory interests in that property, and regardless of whether there is any interference with the individual’s privacy interest. *Soldal v. Cook County*, 506 U.S. 56 (1992) (a seizure occurred when sheriff’s deputies assisted in the disconnection and re-