Eric Trahan

English 123

Journal 1-6

3/7/2020

Topic 1: Privacy vs. Security

There are mainly two arguments opposing each other regarding privacy vs security in my experience. The first being "if you aren't doing anything illegal,

then there shouldn't be an issue". I could probably word that a little better, but basically it implies that less privacy and more security is a good thing

for law-abiding citizens. In a perfect world, this would absolutely be the case. However, we do not live in a perfect world. I lean more towards the other side

of the discussion, which believes sacrificing privacy for security is wrong, and puts people with oppressive governments at risk. My perspective is mostly

cybersecurity related, so that is how I will approach this topic in future writings. It is also related to both my career as an ethical hacker and the

computer science degree I am working towards.

Topic 2: Open Source vs. Closed Source

With open source, the source code is freely available on the internet. This has the strong benefit of being constantly reviewed by programmers across the world.

However, this also makes discovering exploitable vulnerabilities much easier as well. In contrast, source code that is closed source is NOT available to the

public and is kept much more private. To benefit from this, there must be a team dedicated to searching the source code for bugs and

vulnerabilities. While it is much harder for the public to find flaws, it is still only a matter of time before they do. I personally believe open source

is typically better, however, I agree there are many situations where closed source is preferable. It highly depends on the type of software, who uses the

software, and what kind of access the software has.

I will most likely write about topic 1; it is something I have thought about for a long time. As stated above, I will be arguing that sacrificing privacy for

security is wrong. The audience will most likely be my peers in the information security world. This topic relates to what they do every day.

There are many roles in information security, but they all end up directly involved with privacy and security. This topic has been talked about and covered many

times because it is so relevant and important.