Surveillance, Tracking, and Avoidance

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Surveillance technology is a growing system in today’s society. As it grows, the issue of privacy also grows. For instance, several cities across the United States are implementing heavy surveillance systems that can track certain features about all people who cross the path of the cameras. The information, the where, when, and what, is all saved information. The path that this leads to, as pointed out by Ferguson in one of his podcasts, is the inclusion of recognition systems into police body cams. This would allow for data to be stored in a pair with the person’s face. The potential issue with this is any data breaches that could arise. As Angwin points out, this can lead to “troves of personal data [being] abused” (Angwin, 5). A similar event can be seen through the Chicago P.D. where the threat levels of people are shown on the dashboard. These threat levels are collected through the patrol patterns that the police go on. Again, this is storing personal information, which may not even be totally accurate, that could be breached. The collection of private information is being further pushed by “self-surveillance”. This includes things such as smart cars, smart houses, and smart appliances. These different technologies can collect information about the users. This can also be seen in social media, where people post about their lives. Police departments have been using the information that people post to get evidence to be used for prosecution. Both Ferguson and the USDOJ (US Department of Justice) mention this in their podcast and paper respectively.

Works Cited

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Contributorship Statement

I, Benjamin McDonnough, completed this work on my own. The only articles / podcast that I used were the ones required for the assignment, which I cited. No AI was used in the creation of this short paper.