Charles Gagnon

Cybersecurity Principles (IT120)

Prof. Natalia Emricioi

October 15, 2021

The documentary, 21st Century Hackers, was ambitious in scope covering a range of topics from the history of hacking to the importance of cybersecurity and the related issues of privacy rights. I found the history of hacking interesting as it started out in a form that seems almost unimaginable today. It was neither really white hat hacking, nor was it very malicious. In its early days it was merely just people tinkering with a new technology. This led very smoothly into the importance of security and questions about the importance of privacy. One of the issues they talked about is something that is sometimes overlooked, being privacy not only from the government, but your employer as well. They talked about a startup that makes employee ID badges that not only track where you are, but also who you talk to and how you talk to them. This raised questions about employee privacy and also exhibited how while technology can be used to analyse things and increase productivity, that does not mean there are no tradeoffs. They also spoke to a person who had been terminated from a job after refusing to use an app that would track her. Edward Snowden was also interviewed about NSA tracking and the issues that could come along with it. This was juxtaposed with the smart city of Songdo, South Korea. Songdo is a city in which almost everything is internet connected, and everything from traffic flow to suspicious activity is being monitored at all times. This showed the tension between the need of security and the want of privacy beautifully as the city was almost Orwellian in respect to the amount of surveillance, however it was an incredibly safe place to live. Raising the big question of whether we value privacy or security more.