

In December 2012, an anonymous source contacts Glenn Greenwald. They are not able to establish a secure communication method, so their correspondence stalls.

A month later, I start receiving anonymous encrypted emails.

I move to Berlin to protect my film footage from being seized at the US border. When the first emails arrive, I increase security.

William Binney is a legendary NSA crypto-mathematician. During the Cold War, he analyzed nuclear threats. In the 90s, he shifted his focus to the internet and developed methods of mass data analysis.

The NSA has built the world's largest repository for intercepted communications in Bluffdale, Utah. I started filming the site in 2011 when construction began.

In 2006, technician Mark Klein revealed that the NSA was tapping into AT&T's network in San Francisco. Customers filed a lawsuit.

Years later, the litigation is still at the preliminary phase.

After months of anonymous communication, the source agrees to meet.  
I travel to New York and wait for instructions.

Minutes after meeting, I set up the camera and start filming an encounter that will unfold over eight days.

The Guardian, where Glenn Greenwald is now working, also sends investigative reporter Ewen MacAskill.

Six hours later Glenn Greenwald publishes the first story.

To avoid the media, we move to my room.

Snowden applies for refugee status through the UN and goes underground.

I stay in Hong Kong, hoping to continue filming but realize I am being followed. Six days later, I return to Berlin.

On June 21, 2013, the US government charges Snowden with three felonies, two under the Espionage Act, and asks Hong Kong to extradite him.

Two days later, WikiLeaks organizes his departure from Hong Kong to seek political asylum.

An international group of lawyers representing Snowden pro bono  
meets to discuss his legal status.

In July 2014, Edward Snowden's longtime partner, Lindsay Mills, moves to Moscow to be with him.