The Secret Foreign Intelligence Court (SFIC) is a very controversial part of our government that decides on whether or not it is constitutional to gather megadata from USA companies to better track enemies to the USA such as terrorist groups. Especially recently, the USA has been divided on whether the government should make the SFIC rulings public, allowing citizens to know what systems are being monitored. The decision to make the secret Foreign Intelligence Court into a public court or not would be controversial no matter the outcome.

Some of the best arguments for the publication of the SFIC’s decisions discuss how knowledge of monitored systems can allow for more control over one’s privacy. If Facebook began to give the government the megadata about its users, it would be very likely that many would stop using it. Being able to know what sources one can trust or not can impact someone’s life greatly, and allow them to know what is actually private in their life. Another major argument used in favor of the publication would be how knowing what the government is currently surveying gives citizens a better idea of what the government is doing, reducing some of the mysterious mist surrounding their actions. Overtime, maybe once again we can trust our government enough to make their decisions without our approval.

Releasing the information can also be a bad thing. The people the government is trying to stop will only be able to step around the minefield of government-monitored info. It will only make it clear what and who the government is interested in. Surveillance will become useless as surveillance generally requires the person being watched to remain unaware of the watcher. Any information found from these stakeouts could be intentionally faked. Another thing lost is the blissful ignorance many of us enjoyed before learning that the government really does track and use all this megadata. This is similar to Angela in “The Net”, as she becomes absolutely disgusted with the idea that they can see all her actions, and have been watching her for a very long time before. She never views anything on the internet the same again, as is changed throughout the movie as a result of this. Who knows what kind of paranoia that could come from the government looking at people’s Google searches?

The advantages of the SFIC remaining private outweigh the benefits from releasing the information, as the points are stronger and more straightforward. If the SFIC became public, the consequences would outnumber the benefits, and serve only to limit the abilities of counter-terrorist units. The knowledge of what is monitored endangers citizens, and compromised their security. Keeping the SFIC private would allow US to control our information and keep it from falling into the wrong hands. Limiting your actions because you know they are being monitored would increase personal paranoia and seed distrust in the population against the government.