In an ever expanding world, privacy and security are drifting farther and farther from each other. New innovations in unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV’s) are allowing for everyday citizens to acquire and use these drones for domestic uses. While new legislation about drones begin to formulate, it is important to think about whether privacy or security is more vital to society.

Drones have the capability to be huge improvements in our society today. Drones can serve as recreational fun, similar to flying toy helicopters or planes. Also it would provide many jobs in the fields of maintenance, sales, and manufacturing of drones. Drones can also be used in conjunction with emergency services, such as using high altitude drones to track criminals or chases, or using quad rotors to scout out buildings on fire. Another feat drones could accomplish is acting as couriers in delivery services such as amazon or FedEx. Drones are much more fuel efficient than cars, and have over a mile radius. Drones being used for commercial reasons would be an innovative method of business. The drones offer numerous chances for both economic, and social

With new drones there are new opportunities for people to abuse them, using them for the wrong reasons. Although military drones could only be hacked by the most experienced hackers, regular hackers may be able to get into the systems of everyday domestic drones. This would be very bad as the regular drones may be very important to families or businesses. Another issue with drones would be unregulated video or photos taken with drones. A small quad drone would be able to get into a house through an open door or window and completely violate the privacy of people’s homes. Even if laws are put into place, such as not allowing cameras on the drones, people could illegally attach them, and continue to violate privacy. If drones become cheaper, businesses may find it useful to replace workers with drones. Delivery services, waiters, and mail services could all include drones in the work. A possible form of legislation would be to only allow people with permits to own drones, and have strict laws regulating sale and use of drones. Although this might have positives, it also means regular jobs for lower-middle class citizens would not be available. Drones can very obviously be used for nefarious purposes, so it is very vital that security be put into place.

With all of these possibilities for new drones, the question of security vs. privacy is raised again. With the introduction of commercial drones, the threat of not only being spied by the government drones but also the possibility of your neighbors arises. Although it is possible your next door neighbor could own Russian military surveillance equipment, small drones could pose a whole new threat against the privacy of American citizens. It is important that as the legislature of commercial drones becomes very strict as it can allow security and privacy to work together.