The fourth amendment to the US constitution states that citizens’ protections from, “… unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause …and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.” This basically means for a warrant to be granted by a judge, it must proclaim what is being seized, where the search is taking place, and probable cause must be apparent. Citizens of the United States are taking a more proactive stance these days when it comes to their civil rights and are demanding their government follow the amendments set by the peoples.

A case in 1928, demonstrated how the government and a citizen perceived the fourth amendment differently. The citizen in question believed his fourth amendment rights had been violated because his phone had been wiretapped from his personal residence without a warrant, which leads to his arrest. The government believed no violation occurred because the information obtained was only heard, not seized, and obtained outside the residence. This correlates to today’s time with emails. Emails are mostly not physically stored in the home, but at an outside source (internet) like Gmail. The government should not have access to these emails, even if they are older than 180 days, because it would be a breach of privacy. This can be considered digital breaking and entering when no legitimate security issues are present. Email is also password protected, and seizing information from the account would be a direct violation of ones’ civil liberties, because that information is considered personal property of the account holder. An account protected by a password, even if not physically housed in ones’ home, is under the assumption it is to be kept private and not intended for others to view without a warrant granted with just cause.

Another correlation is using phones or tablets to track US citizens’ whereabouts without a warrant. The government would be able to track anyone, suspect or not, with GPS capabilities without their knowledge. If the government had the technology available to track average citizens’ without warrant whenever they wanted, what would happen if their mainframe was possibly hacked? The hacker would have every location of those citizens. This information can be used in very negative ways. The hacker may be looking to cause harm or possibly kill someone they locate by using the data collected. They would easily be able to find that person at any time, anywhere.

People wouldn’t feel safe and crime rates could skyrocket because people would have access to other peoples’ locations. The reasons for not wanting the governments’ involvement in personal, private emails or locations is vast and wide, yet the main reasons is it can violate the amendments set by the people the government itself is supposed to follow.