Through out the ages, the question that has plagued mankind is how to best rule and govern the masses, thus leading to the paradox of how to distribute power. Should we favor individual rights or a strong central power? Abraham Lincoln stated, “ It presents the question whether individuals, according to organic law, can always break up their government. It forces us to ask: ‘Is there, in all republics, this inherent, and fatal weakness? Must a government, of necessity, be too strong for the liberties of its own people, or too weak to maintain its own existence?”

A government should be strong for the liberties of its people as opposed to being too weak to continue its existence. A powerful government balances the aspects of life and individual rights. After the terrorist attacks of 9/11, the U.S. government increased security measures to include cyber space leading to violations of individual privacy. This was a necessary evil to ensure safety among the general public. To control our government from abusing this power, there needs to be checks and balances.

One has to ask, should the government be able to intrude into our digital lives. This matter should be thoroughly pondered and the following taken into consideration: Should respect be given to our personal liberties, or should the Government overstep their bounds, and intrude into our digital lives. Overstepping these boundaries violates everyone’s right to have their information kept private. If America begins to give up our freedoms, at which point will it end? If we protect our liberty, we will not be lead down the road to destruction.

Our founding fathers were not able to imagine a concept such as the Internet, but they understood that for our country to be strong, some of our rights must remain inviolable; most specifically, the five freedoms that make up the First Amendment. These rights should be maintained, especially when regarding the Internet. For example, blogging covers three of these given freedoms; speech, petition, and even allows the writer to become an unofficial member of the press. If a person disagrees with the Government, and it attempts to take down the on-line post based on their vague interpretation of a national security threat, not only are they taking away the right of expression, but they are also censoring information. By doing this, our Government would be no better than North Korea where the Governments rights override that of the people.

In conclusion, our government’s strength comes from the rights of the individual. Our rights were not meant to be violated. Though our founding fathers were unaware of how the country would change into a technology driven superpower, they knew that each and every citizen should be given equal rights, and know that those rights were protected and not to be infringed upon. They understood that the whole is only as strong as the individual.