Privacy is of great concern to regular citizens these days. Whether or not it’s the public or government officials knowing the whereabouts of someone, no one wants to know that they are being watched and tracked. America is known for the freedom and rights it present. For a person to know, or simply think, that they are being tracked will cause them to feel uncomfortable about going places, doing activities, and saying some of the things they wish to express. Just by stimulating this response in citizens, the government is indirectly violating the rights of the people. By trying to make the nation as strong as possible, the government has neglected the protection of its peoples’ rights.

As technology advances, the world comes up with new ways to collect, store, and share information. The Internet by default becomes the biggest database for information. The information stored on the Internet is easily accessed by people all over the world. Millions of messages are sent over wireless networks every second—personal messages, secrets, and important information that some people cannot risk to lose.

The Fourth Amendment in the Bill of Rights stresses the importance of privacy regarding search and seizures. It explains the “…right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.” This means that no matter where people store their possessions, they have a right to keep it safe and private from the government if they don’t have a probable cause. Even though the Fourth Amendment speaks of people and not places, knowledge of a person’s location already puts him/her at risk of being approached by people they don’t wish to. It’s all about privacy. Unless there is probable cause or reason, no one should be permitted to use GPS to find out their location. A person’s whereabouts is their own private business.

People with the right resources, such as the government, can easily access these types of information whenever they want. Communication via e-mail is a very popular system of transferring information. Government has the idea that emails after 180 days loses its privacy because the owner doesn’t want it anymore. If a person doesn’t want an e-mail anymore, they’d send it to trash and then permanently delete it. Then and only then is it “trash” for the public.

By paying too much attention to the nation’s security and protection, the government has neglected their duty of securing the freedom and rights of its people. By using different methods to access private information about its citizens without a warrant with probable cause, is a major violation of the Fourth Amendment.