The ancient philosopher Aristotle once claimed, “The basis of a democratic state is liberty.”

With the advent of digital technology, the issue of cyber-security creates a certain amount of strain between the concepts of security and liberty. The Declaration of Independence is a document which acts as a mechanism to provide both liberty and security. Thus, as cyber citizens we must realize that the desire for liberty and the desire for security are not mutually exclusive. In essence, one cannot expect to be completely free and completely safe. The strain between liberty and security is one that is inherent within a democracy, and it is reasonable to believe that as technology advances and cyber innovations develop the tension will only increase.

To illustrate, the Ninth Amendment to The Constitution essentially guarantees all Americans a certain level of privacy. However, in a post -911 era, our nation is faced with the challenge of providing citizens with a heightened level of security without stripping away their “unalienable rights.” Perusing the internet one may feel a certain sense of freedom, but in reality patrons are being tracked by search engines such as Google who are recording every click of the mouse. Additionally, Facebook, a popular social media outlet, has updated its privacy policy and added a new timeline feature, which has stirred much controversy. Visitors to Facebook innocently wander through the pictures of their family and check the status of their friends without realizing that they are being followed by Facebook. In addition, a Geo-tag (a device which reveals the location where a picture was taken) is displayed clearly on each photograph that is posted to the website. Consequently, those who are unaware of Facebook’s new policy, inadvertently expose their location and personal information to any individual who might wish to inflict harm. Without government regulation, Facebook, Google, Twitter, and other internet sites will be able to gather and exchange personal information freely and easily. In essence, this is an invasion of privacy and should fall under the protection of the Ninth Amendment.

To conclude, the government of the United States finds itself in a precarious position. It is ultimately responsible for the security and the protection of its citizens, while at the same time it is charged with the promotion of freedom and liberty, which was established in The Constitution. Myriam Dunn in her book *Cyber-Security and Threat Politics: U.S. Efforts to Secure the Information Age* states, “Traditionally national security has been recognized as the responsibility of the government, relying on the collective efforts of the military, the foreign policy establishment, and the intelligence community.” Thus, the provisions of security and liberty are a “collective effort” which will only be successful if the government and the citizens agree to compromise. Unfortunately, our need for security will only increase as technology advances. Therefore, it is incumbent upon our government to create a working balance between liberty and security.