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In America today the FBI uses a software called Carnivore that allows for them to check for terrorism. They do this by searching through files and data that people have used while on the internet. Companies have also used similar software that allows them to search through employee’s social media, their work computer, as well as their personal or work emails. Many people have been outraged at some of the things that companies and the FBI have been allowed to do using software like Carnivore. Companies and the FBI should be monitored and have a check and balance system in place to make sure that they are not doing anything that can be seen as unethical.

In some cases, Carnivore can be used to prevent terrorism and can be a very useful software to keep the American people safe. However, that power can also be easily abused. The FBI, after the Patriot Act came out, became able to use Carnivore to search through anyone’s information with no one checking to make sure that what they were doing is ethical. There should be a system of checks and balances to make sure that the FBI is not discriminating against people. The IEEE has a list of conducts that should be obeyed in technology today. The first one says that people should not be discriminated against bases on age, race, or gender (IEEE 1). However, the FBI no longer has a way of making sure that they are not discriminating. The ACM also has a similar set of rules with which they state that discriminating based on age, race, gender, ethnicity, or disability will not be tolerated (ACM 1.4). This shows that the American people do feel that there is a need for a group or body of people to provide that check to the FBI to make sure that they are not biasing their searches. This could be implemented by creating a court, much like the one that was present before 9/11, that would check over the case that the FBI wanted to use carnivore for and tell the FBI what they can search for and if their search can be done. This however can be a lengthy process, which would not be effective if the FBI needed answers quickly for an act of terrorism. To solve this, there could be a very small group, three to four people, that could discuss if the situation is dire enough that the FBI could just go ahead and use Carnivore. This would allow for the FBI to help prevent situations that could harm the American people, while still watching out for the welfare of the rights of the suspects in question. Having a system of checks would allow for the FBI to be held accountable for the searches that they create as well as make sure that no rights are being violated.

In addition to there being a body that helps to balance the FBI’s searches, there needs to be a set of standards that helps to monitor the level of programming correctness of Carnivore. If there was no check, then Carnivore’s information may not be correct and someone could be prosecuted for something that they did not do. The level of error should be less than one percent because the penalty for a crime like treason is death. This could be checked by having a team look over what Carnivore is doing and have them check through someone on the team’s information to make sure that it is only bringing up things that are true and not random information. This could solve some problems; however, it is not possible for every problem to be fixed because Carnivore is man-made and there will be human error in it. Even though some things cannot be fixed, most of the information that is needed will be able to come to light. In Luke 12:2-3 it is stated that “Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. Therefore, whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops” (Luke 12:2-3). This shows that if there is something that God wishes to be known he will make it known through the program.

Even though not every problem with the FBI’s use of Carnivore and companies use of software like Carnivore can be fixed, there are still measures that can be taken to prevent discrimination and wrongful prosecution. We must, as programmers make sure that we are putting forth the best work that we can and always make sure that what we make does what it is supposed to. We must make sure that we are not going against the ethics set forth for us and always do the Christian thing and make things right if they ever do go wrong.

**Works Cited**

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