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Information Security

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Panel Discussion

Privacy, Security, and Freedom. The large slogan that catches the eye of anyone reading about Fontbonne Dedicated Semester events as it is the motto and foundation of every discussion that is held for those events. The words strike many feelings into the reader ranging from pride to fear, due to the happiness and safety of having those principles and the fear of those same principles being taken away. Recently the nation felt those same feelings after the long wait finally came an end, and the president elect of the United States of America was announced. The same nation that boasts its privacy, security, and freedom sadly has become its own hypocrite. Now faced the with the reality that those three standards might be taken away the discussion of the presidential election result has become the nation's most talked topic, as it was in this recent panel discussion. At the panel discussion the panelist were asked to talked about how the result affects our citizens and nations security, privacy, and freedom.

Security is a nation's top priority, the power to defend all of its citizens and all that it has worked towards is a necessity because without it progress means nothing. Upholding this need of security, the majority of the presidential nominees such as Hillary Clinton promised: to strengthen our nation's military to better secure it, plan to focus more on STEM fields (specifically Cyber Security) to prevent future cyber attacks, and to better train police officers to handle situations like those similar to what resulted in Ferguson. These security implementations are very effective and progressive and with that logic one might say that there is no such thing as too much or “bad security”. Before nominee Trump was elected no one considered this notion. Since his winning, concerns towards misplacement of security have become another hot topic. Security can become regressive when the premise of its implementation is based on destructive immoral intentions. Examples of this include restricting and limiting certain groups based on race, religion, or quantity (such as Syrian Refugees) into our nation, creating a stop and frisk policy focused on African Americans (Police officers have the right to stop you and search you without valid reason), and finally creating a wall to prevent our neighboring nation’s (Mexico) citizens from immigrating to the US and to add insult to injury proposed that Mexico pay for that said wall. Looking at the plans that Trump and Hillary creates on a broad scale they are both counted as security measures but when fully assessing Trump's “logical reason”, legitimacy, and morality of its “security measures” are immoral, destructive, and regressive. At any rate, the latter of these “security measures” not only affect our security itself, but also threatens the privacy of our citizens greatly.

Privacy and security go hand in hand, when formulating security policies it's best to not overstep boundaries that lead to abuse of the privacy of the same people who you are trying to protect, which will in turn make those people atest them and question your authority. When the word privacy and abuse come up, majority of people think of the NSA, and how they are keeping track of every movement of every citizen. The thought of someone (Big Brother) always watching you it can be a very daunting concept. Thinking of this creates fear. When people fear something unknown they unfortunately despise it. So when a presidential nominee such as Trump stated that he wanted to rid the nation of terrorists and immigrants, this will in turn amplify the NSA’s actions. This in turn will not affect minorities more, but cause national distrust in our nation’s government. Restating what was stated before, Trump wanted to implement a “stop and frisk” policy, that has the same negative energy as “stand your ground”. The policy though “broad” is targeted at a specific group of people and will negatively affect their lives as this is a formula for more incidents similar Ferguson. All in all, when threatening the security and privacy of citizens you then in turn affect their freedom.

Freedom is the USA’s most prized principle, as it calls itself “the land of the free”. Unfortunately when protecting its citizens freedom, some of the choices that president-elect makes can ultimately take that same freedom (that we so proudly boast and fight for) away. When someone’s privacy and security are taken away, that person is no longer free but under tyranny (whether socially or politically). In the discussion that panelist narrated a world under tyranny of Trump and how his immoral policies will threaten the very fabric of our nation's prized principles. Lastly, the panels discussed that the nation is under attack internally due to the upcoming presidency of Trump. To better clarify, in relation to the world of Information and Cyber Security, the majority of analysis and policies are meant to protect itself from external threats. Most of the time external threats have more focus than internal threats, when unfortunately it's the internal threats that of which are unexpected, negatively affect us more than the outside attacks.