Notes November 5, 2018

Questions

* Which of the listed groups do you think poses the greatest legitimate threat to our privacy?
* Which one worries you the most?

The Threat of Identity Theft

* According to LifeLock, 16.7 million Americans were victims of identity fraud in 2017 and $16.8 million were lost as a result.
* There are six different forms recognized by the FTC:
  + Employment or tax-related fraud (the attempt to gain employment or file a tax return as someone else)
  + Credit Card fraud
  + Phone or utilities fraud (using someone else’s information to open a

How the Government Protects Us from Identity Thieves

* Congress initially introduced the “Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act of 1998” (H.R.3601), then

Question

* When do you think the victim of identity fraud is financially liable for the charges incurred?

The Threat of Private Interests

* In March of 2018, Christopher Wylie, a high-ranking employee of Cambridge Analytica, informed the press that the firm had been using data obtained through Facebook without the consent of users, to build psychological profiles about Americans to aid Ted Cruz in the 2016 presidential election.
* Cambridge Analytica denied using the data, which was obtained by a survey application

How the Government Deals with the Threat of Private Interests

* “The US legislative framework for the protection of PII resembles a patchwork quilt. Unlike other jurisdictions, the US does not have a dedicated data protection law, but instead regulates primarily by industry, on a sector-by-sector basis” – Lisa J Sotto and Aaron

Questions

* We all probably agree that the government should protect us from the criminal theft, but should it protect us from businesses?
* In the US legislation around the use of data by corporations too convoluted to be useful?
* Do you think that there should be a new legal framework that covers most of these situations instead of many laws that cover small portions of them?

The Foreign Threat

* On October 7, 2016, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence on Election Security released a joint statement directly accusing the Russian government of interfering in the US election.
  + This “interference” took many forms

The Government’s Response

* The “Defending the Integrity of Voting Systems Act” (S.3311) and the “International Cybercrime Prevention Act” (S.3288) have both

Questions

* Is it realistic for the government to protect our privacy from foreign governments online?
* Do you think that protection of foreign governments to our individual privacy is credible enough to warrant protection?

The Threat of the Domestic Government

* In June 2013, Edward Snowden stole well over one-million files from the NSA detailing the espionage of people around the world, including US citizens.
* Some of the leaked information revealed that the NSA had

Final Questions

* Should we as US citizens have some protection against the US government when it comes to invading our privacy?
* Do you think that the government’s apparent willingness to compromise our privacy makes us safer?