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Assignment II

1. Occasionally, an error will occur in Windows that is accompanied by a request (the opt-in choice) to send anonymous data about the error to help improve the OS. Most websites I visit now ask to accept cookies. All the apps on my phone require I grant the app certain permissions (location, file access, etc.) to operate. I can’t recall the last time I was offered an opt-out choice.
2. Literally every event is a possible terrorist target. A better question would be is it ethical for event organizers to video surveil the attendants in the name of safety (in general)? For private events (e.g., concerts), I think it is proper to allow the organizers to do all the video surveilling they (and only they) choose to pay for on the condition that they openly notify the public of their doing so, so that individuals may have the choice of trading their privacy for the attendance at the event. For public events (i.e., events where the cameras are paid with tax dollars), the question is handled by the legislature. How should the legislature handle it? Speak with their constituencies and implement their will.
3. No, screening for people with unpaid parking tickets at events should not be allowed as that is not the advertised purpose of the event. Buying tickets for a concert should not have the side effect of a court date.
4. I did a bit of research to see what constitutes “plain view” on a computer. According to the U.S Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit (Tenth), closed files are not considered plain view. If someone invited an officer into his home without a warrant (this is a terrible idea; never do it), the officer would have grounds for arrest if any illegal material were readily visible on a monitor. I agree with this. From what the Tenth stated, the officer may also be able to “maximize” any “minimized” content. Although it is “open” technically, it is not in “plain view”. If I had to say right now if the officer should be allowed to view “minimized” content, I would say no. However, I’m not a lawyer and the courts may have a different view. What seems to be clear based on the Tenth’s ruling is that an officer is not allowed to start snooping and opening any file that catches his eye, which I agree with. Plain view doctrine would be intriguing research.

Reference: <http://www.angelilaw.com/pdf/The-Plain-View-Doctrine-and-Computer-Searches-NACDL.pdf>