

Names: Nia Lam, Niki Jiang

## **What is encryption?**

Encryption is the process of taking information and scrambling it to make it unreadable. This way the message is confidential as it's transmitted through a network like the internet. Once the message is received by the recipient, it's decrypted, translated back into its original form with an encryption key.

**The Issue:** Should law enforcement be allowed to break encrypted data?

### **Con for Law Enforcement Accessing Encrypted Data:**

Law enforcement should not be able to break encrypted data because not only is it a violation of people's privacy and freedom of speech, but it also creates a weakness in a nation's national security, allowing malicious actors to access information more easily. In addition, encryption has shown more benefits to businesses, boosting the economy. Therefore to protect the public's trust, ensure the public's privacy and freedom of expression is protected, law enforcement should not be able to break encryption.

### **Pro for Law Enforcement Accessing Encrypted Data:**

Going dark is a term that refers to the process of encryption or techniques that obscure information in ways that prevent the government from accessing it, even when the government is authorized by law to do so. Encryption can be used by criminals, hackers, and terrorists which makes it harder for the government to track their activities and stop their plans. When it comes to investigations of terrorist plans, child pornography, selling illegal drugs, and other major crimes, the government should have the right to access encrypted data to ensure national safety and protect the public.

Links:

[Terror in the Dark](#)

[POLICY APPROACHES TO THE ENCRYPTION DEBATE](#)

[Surveillance and Encryption](#)

[Encryption and India's Security and Law Enforcement Challenges](#)

<https://www.axel.org/2021/02/10/law-enforcement-is-already-breaking-into-encrypted-devices/#:~:text=How%20they%20do%20it&text=Law%20enforcement%20agencies%20use%20Mobile,device%20they%20wish%20to%20crack>

<https://www.eff.org/cases/playpen-cases-mass-hacking-us-law-enforcement>

<https://www.american.edu/sis/centers/security-technology/encryption.cfm>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-46463029>

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep26171>