

CS Ethics: Consumer Surveillance Tools



Emily - against surveillance | Catherine - for surveillance

Instructions:

- Ethicacy will take place at the beginning of each class session. Q&A thereafter.
- *GOAL: Each partner takes a side (of an at-least-2-sided issue), and audience gets to hear each argument.*
- ~5min per side.
 - (shorter: topic not rich enough)
 - (longer: topic not distilled enough)
- Take questions/comments/concerns
- **PDF in each partner's work repo, subject to these guidelines:**
 - **links to primary sources included**
 - **summary of issue or newsworthy development**
- Other supporting files may be added to ethicacy folder. **Each partners' folder must contain all files.**
- **Digital components saved in ethicacy0 dir in root of work repo.**

Link to download PDF (when we finish it) so we can put in GitHub:

Slide deck:

-  CS Ethics - Consumer Surveillance
-  CS Ethics - Consumer Surveillance

Emily - Against Surveillance

What is consumer surveillance:

- Advertisers recording data on online activities of internet users (need to put into my own words)
- Key words: cookie policy, dataveillance, mass self-surveillance, online behavioral tracking, privacy policy, prosumer surveillance, terms of service, tracking

Why is it a problem:

Companies are tracking every part of our lives, like our behaviors, relationships, interests, and private information -> invasion of privacy. They know us TOO well

- Looking at our phone call history, search history, app usage
- They can figure out personal attributes such as ethnicity, religious and political views, relationship status, sexual orientation, and alcohol, cigarette, and drug use
- Personal information like career and education level
- Looking at typing patterns -> emotional states like confidence, nervousness, sadness, and tiredness
- Predict personality traits such as emotional stability, life satisfaction, impulsivity, depression and sensationalist interest.

Surveillance started out with online advertising, but it's now being used in other fields like finance, insurance, politics, and health care.

- pricing, politics, credit scoring, and risk management.

Although surveillance can be used for personalization, it is tracking and profiling users -> can be used to influence people's behavior (for the better or for the worse)

Not only does this apply to doorbell cameras, but also health devices (e.g. apple watch, fitbit)

<https://www.proquest.com/docview/418937896/36FFCFB33ADF400CPQ/5?accountid=36166&sourcetype=Newspapers>

<https://crackedlabs.org/en/corporate-surveillance>

https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/ftc_gov/pdf/Commercial%20Surveillance%20and%20Data%20Security%20Rulemaking%20Fact%20Sheet_1.pdf

<https://www.proquest.com/docview/2681995858/36FFCFB33ADF400CPQ/8?accountid=36166&sourcetype=Newspapers>

<https://www.wbur.org/onpoint/2024/08/14/surveillance-pricing-harm-consumers-ftc-data>

<https://www.proquest.com/docview/3083646544/36FFCFB33ADF400CPQ/3?accountid=36166&sourcetype=Newspapers>

<https://www.proquest.com/docview/2786904198/36FFCFB33ADF400CPQ/1?accountid=36166&sourcetype=Blogs.%20Podcasts.%20&%20Websites>

<https://www.proquest.com/docview/240580408/4549DACEFC1B43CCPQ/3?accountid=36166&sourcetype=Newspapers>

FTC issues order to eight companies on using surveillance pricing to

Catherine - For Surveillance

Surveillance can be used to discover crimes, and solve cases. The government has a right to make sure that none of its citizens are engaging in criminal activity online. In emergencies, police deserve to have access to data that could potentially save peoples lives.

Surveillance can also be used to collect helpful information to improve future pursuits.

Also there are some cases where the data is not collected, and yet the people still behave better. This is called self-surveillance. The MTA utilizes this often, as they put these circular mirrors in the corners of stairs occasionally. This type of surveillance is harmless, and still helps the security of the community.

Ways surveillance can help:

- Cameras help deter crime
- Recordings can help solve criminal cases
- Eye-witnesses will sometimes get things wrong
- They can help get an accurate story on a specific issue

Surveillance itself is neutral, it's what is done with the information that could be harmful. But as long as there are responsible, trustworthy people taking care of our data, then surveillance isn't a problem.

Surveillance in a public area isn't an invasion of privacy, as everyone is out and about, and it is expected that people will see each other.

This is also true on the internet, if it can be seen by other people, it can be recorded as data.

In the case of the Amazon Ring camera, although the police should have to state a valid reason to access the footage, the cameras are in a public setting so ultimately there isn't a breach in privacy. Amazon's new policy of requiring a warrant to access the footage is a good solution, as police can use this footage to help them on their cases.

Camera's also have no bias. They record everything as it transpired, and can be much more accurate than eyewitnesses or policemen. They can help bring an objective summary of what happened, and prevent innocent people from being falsely accused.

<https://www.bossecurity.com/2022/12/21/benefits-of-surveillance-cameras-in-public-places/#:~:text=December%2021%2C%202022,if%20you%20are%20in%20trouble.>
<https://www2.law.ucla.edu/Volokh/camerascomm.htm>