

# I Have Nothing To Hide : And 20 Other Myths About Surveillance And Privacy (Myths Made In America)

In the wake of the Edward Snowden revelations about the National Security Agency's (NSA) mass surveillance program, there has been a great deal of public debate about the relationship between surveillance and privacy. Many people believe that the government's surveillance programs are a necessary evil in the fight against terrorism, while others believe that these programs are a violation of our fundamental rights.

In this article, we will explore some of the common myths about surveillance and privacy. We will also provide some factual information about these issues to help you make informed decisions about your own privacy.

## **Myth 1: The government is only interested in spying on terrorists.**

**Fact:** The NSA's surveillance programs collect data on millions of Americans, including people who are not suspected of any crime. The NSA has collected phone records, email metadata, and other information about Americans' online activities.



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by Heidi Boghosian

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**Myth 2: The government needs to collect all of this data in order to keep us safe.**

**Fact:** There is no evidence to support this claim. The NSA has not produced any evidence that its mass surveillance programs have prevented any terrorist attacks. In fact, a 2015 report by the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board found that the NSA's surveillance programs are "not essential to preventing terrorism."

**Myth 3: The government is only using this data to track down terrorists.**

**Fact:** The NSA has shared data with other government agencies, including the IRS and the FBI. The NSA has also shared data with foreign governments.

**Myth 4: The government is not interested in my personal information.**

**Fact:** The NSA has been collecting data on Americans' personal lives, including their health information, financial information, and travel habits. The NSA has also been collecting data on Americans' political views and religious beliefs.

**Myth 5: I have nothing to hide, so I don't care if the government is spying on me.**

**Fact:** Even if you have nothing to hide, you should still be concerned about government surveillance. The government's surveillance programs could be used to target political dissidents or to silence whistleblowers.

**Myth 6: The government is only spying on people who are a threat to national security.**

**Fact:** The NSA's surveillance programs have collected data on millions of Americans, including people who are not suspected of any crime. The NSA has collected data on journalists, political activists, and other innocent people.

**Myth 7: The government is only using this data to protect us from terrorism.**

**Fact:** The NSA has shared data with other government agencies, including the IRS and the FBI. The NSA has also shared data with foreign governments. The government could use this data to target political dissidents or to silence whistleblowers.

**Myth 8: The government is not interested in my personal information.**

**Fact:** The NSA has been collecting data on Americans' personal lives, including their health information, financial information, and travel habits. The NSA has also been collecting data on Americans' political views and religious beliefs.

**Myth 9: I have nothing to hide, so I don't care if the government is spying on me.**

**Fact:** Even if you have nothing to hide, you should still be concerned about government surveillance. The government's surveillance programs could be used to target political dissidents or to silence whistleblowers.

**Myth 10: The government is only spying on people who are a threat to national security.**

**Fact:** The NSA's surveillance programs have collected data on millions of Americans, including people who are not suspected of any crime. The NSA has collected data on journalists, political activists, and other innocent people.

**Myth 11: The government is only using this data to protect us from terrorism.**

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**Myth 12: The government is not interested in my personal information.**

**Fact:** The NSA has been collecting data on Americans' personal lives, including their health information, financial information, and travel habits. The NSA has also been collecting data on Americans' political views and religious beliefs.

**Myth 13: I have nothing to hide, so I don't care if the government is spying on me.**

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**Myth 15: The government is only using this data to protect us from terrorism.**

**Fact:** The NSA has shared data with other government agencies, including the IRS and the FBI. The NSA has also shared data with foreign governments. The government could use this data to target political dissidents or to silence whistleblowers.

**Myth 16: The government is not interested in my personal information.**

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**Myth 17: I have nothing to hide, so I don't care if the government is spying on me.**

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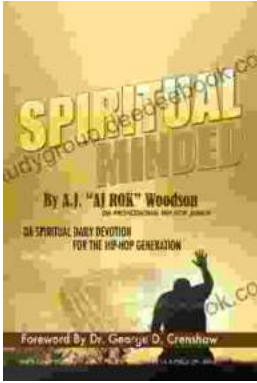
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