

Privacy, Surveillance Methods and Data Protection

The concept of privacy in 1984 does not exist at all due to constant surveillance and control; however, in real life we may have privacy, but our information is available for others and we are constantly exposed without our consent.



Similarities



Both in the book and in real life there are people that have access to our information without our consent. They can have access to it either legally or illegally.

Microphones are a method of surveillance used in both societies. In Oceania, there were microphones everywhere, and in the real world microphones can also be hidden or implanted in various objects.



Cameras are an object used in both societies, they are in the tele screens, phones, in the street, etc. Sometimes, we can't be sure who or when someone is watching us.

"WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF TELEVISION, AND THE TECHNICAL ADVANCE WHICH MADE IT POSSIBLE TO RECEIVE AND TRANSMIT SIMULTANEOUSLY ON THE SAME INSTRUMENT, PRIVATE LIFE CAME TO AN END. EVERY CITIZEN, OR AT LEAST EVERY CITIZEN IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO BE WORTH WATCHING, COULD BE KEPT FOR TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY UNDER THE EYES OF THE POLICE AND IN THE SOUND OF OFFICIAL PROPAGANDA, WITH ALL OTHER CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION CLOSED"(ORWELL 259-260)

All our personal information is available for various organizations, for example, the government/Ingsoc, banks, schools, airports, websites...



Other similarities:

- Children in 1984 and spies in reality.
- Location (having a way to know where you are)
- Your data being stored by other people

Differences



“A PARTY MEMBER IS EXPECTED TO HAVE NO PRIVATE EMOTIONS AND NO RESPITES FROM ENTHUSIASM. HE IS SUPPOSED TO LIVE IN A CONTINUOUS FRENZY OF HATRED OF FOREIGN ENEMIES AND INTERNAL TRAITORS, TRIUMPH OVER VICTORIES, AND SELF-ABASEMENT BEFORE THE POWER AND WISDOM OF THE PARTY”
(ORWELL 267).

Many people have social media, and in order to create an account we have to give our personal information. This information will be available for other people, some of which we know and others that we don't. In Oceania, apps don't exist, so people don't have this problem (Privacy, 2019).



In the book, the Party is the one that controls everyone, they have all the information. In reality, even though the government has some information, the information is also available to the technological companies.



Nowdays, most people use smartphones, these phones can know your location, see you, sense movement and sound (Privacy, 2019). In the book, the technology wasn't as sophisticated, there were just cameras, tele screens, and microphones.

Other differences:

- Constitutional privacy does not exist in Oceania
- Telescreens
- We are not being constantly watched when we are in our house.
- Children spying on their parents to report any thoughts or actions that go against the party.
- We are allowed to have private thoughts and objects (diaries, pictures, conversations...)

WORK CITED

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RETRIEVED AUGUST 25, 2020, FROM
[HTTPS://PLATO.STANFORD.EDU/ENTRIES/IT-
PRIVACY/](https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/it-privacy/)