Transparency and Surveillance: Perspectives on Identity, Privacy and Security

Andrew Clement
Information Policy Research Program
Faculty of Information Studies

IPSI research symposium
Identity, Privacy & Security Initiative
May 2, 2008
Big burning questions

1. Can we advance democratic values and human rights, notably identity integrity, privacy and security, in the face of the ‘(in)security’ onslaught?

2. What is being done to us through the emerging ‘cyber’ infrastructure?

3. What are the technical and policy alternatives?

4. How can those affected find an effective voice in the on-going development process?
Surveillance

“Any focused attention to personal details for the purpose of entitlement, influence or control” Lyon

Fast becoming the dominant organizing principle of late modern society

Based on control and systems theory applied to organizational practices

– Weiner, Ashby, Von Neumann, Rapoport, Mead, Bateson, von Bertalanffy, Boulding, Churchman, …
Transparency

Widespread social practices of generalized surveillance that render visible, most often to organizations, individual identities, institutional mechanisms and information flows

May be seen as a social good to be fostered or an evil to be resisted, or both.

Transparency is rarely symmetrical.

Asymmetries in visibility often reproduce or exacerbate social inequalities
CAN ID?

Visions for Canada: Identity Policy Projections and Policy Alternatives

Questions:
1. What does Canada need in terms of identity policy?
2. What are the factors in developing identity policy?
3. What identity initiatives are currently underway?
4. What is driving these initiatives?
5. What should be the guiding principles for developing identity schemes?
6. How are we doing?

With Krista Boa (FIS), Gus Hosein & Simon Davies (LSE)  
Funding from Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Clarity of Purpose</strong></th>
<th>Drive to enhance online access to health services, though extensibility to other projects is potentially problematic, though consent-driven.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capability</strong></td>
<td>Using available technologies and techniques.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alternatives considered?</strong></td>
<td>Ministry is considering a variety of plans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Consultation and Process</strong></td>
<td>Discussions are at early stages and some outreach has started.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Respect for Rights</strong></td>
<td>Non-compulsory, consent-based, though limited to citizens.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Caution**
## Biometric passport

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Assess ment</th>
<th>Test Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clarity of Purpose</strong></td>
<td>Driven by foreign influences, though some participation by Passports Canada. Appears limited to use at borders.</td>
<td>Danger! Stop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capability</strong></td>
<td>Unknown and unclear.</td>
<td>Unknown and unclear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alternatives considered?</strong></td>
<td>Unknown and unclear.</td>
<td>Unknown and unclear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Consultation and Process</strong></td>
<td>None. Canadian officials were deeply involved in the international negotiations but communicated little with public.</td>
<td>Danger! Stop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Respect for Rights</strong></td>
<td>Unknown and unclear.</td>
<td>Unknown and unclear.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PIPWatch
The Canadian Collaborative Privacy Enhancement & Accountability Toolbar

Firefox Browser-embedded privacy enhancing technology

With funding from SSRHC and BUL
PIPWatch Strategy - quick access

Real time data about the privacy practices of websites:

Compare websites by their privacy practices:

Simple interface for contributing information:
PIPWatch Strategy - Web 2.0

Communal Database

PIPWatc
The New Transparency:
Surveillance and social sorting

Questions:
1. What factors contribute to the general expansion of surveillance as a technology of governance in late modern societies?
2. What are the underlying principles, technological infrastructures and institutional frameworks that support surveillance practice?
3. What are the social consequences of such surveillance both for institutions and for ordinary people?

With funding from SSRHC 2008-15, $2.5M
Subprojects

IRSP 1: The Role of Technology Companies in Promoting Surveillance Internationally

IRSP 2: Digitally Mediated Surveillance: From the Internet to Ubiquitous Computing

IRSP 3: Surveillance Consequences of 9/11

IRSP 4: Surveillance and Population Management
Coming events

Workshops:
1. Population Management in Conflict zones (IRSP 4) Cyprus
2. Surveillance Games, Victoria
3. Surveillance Technology Companies (IRSP 1) Open University
4. Cyber surveillance (IRSP2) Toronto
5. Surveillance: Ten Years After 9/11, (IRSP 3) Kingston

Conference on “Canada’s Surveillance Society,” Ottawa 2011
Andrew Clement
Information Policy Research Program
Faculty of Information Studies
University of Toronto

www.fis.utoronto.ca/research/iprp