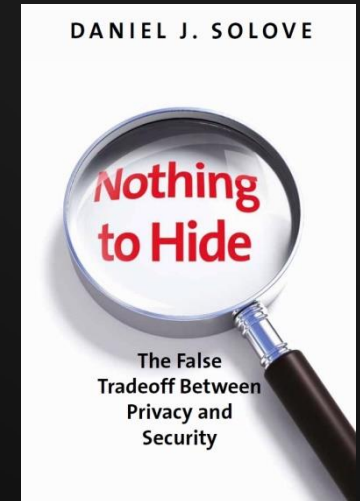




Chapter 2: The Nothing-to-Hide Argument & Chapter 3: The All-or-Nothing Fallacy

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”I’ve Got Nothing to Hide”

- → If you haven’t done anything wrong, you should not worry about government surveillance programs
- The nothing-to-hide argument is everywhere: news interviews, blogs, discussions etc.
- Seemingly easy to dismiss – everyone has something to hide!
- However, the government is generally not interested in e.g. your nude photos → privacy interest is minimal?



Understanding Privacy

- Privacy, as a concept, is too complex to be reduced to one simple idea
 - People have different conceptions of privacy
 - People don't acknowledge problems that don't fit their conception of privacy
- 2 metaphors to describe the problems:
 - Orwellian - harms of surveillance
 - Kafkaesque - harms of information processing



The Problem with NTH Argument

- Focuses only on Orwellian problems, i.e. disclosure of secrets and inhibition caused by government surveillance
- Kafkaesque harms are often ignored, for example:
 - Aggregation = combining data to gain sensitive information
 - Exclusion = preventing people from knowing how data about them is used
 - Secondary use = exploitation of data obtained for one purpose in other purposes
 - Distortion = data doesn't always tell the whole story

Blood, Death & Privacy



- Privacy needs more "dead bodies" for problems to be recognized → few problems will be recognized
- Demanding more palpable harms is difficult in many cases
- Privacy is rarely lost because of one egregious act. Instead, it is often incrementally eroded over time through multiple misdemeanors.
- Even if you have nothing to hide, government can cause a lot of harm due to errors or carelessness.



The All-or-Nothing Fallacy

- Argument stating that privacy and security are mutually exclusive terms.
- Sacrificing privacy does not necessarily make us more secure. Furthermore, not all security measures invade privacy.
- Security and privacy are often balanced wrong due to this fallacy by weighing the *entire* security measure against privacy rights.
- By imposing oversight and regulation on the initiative, the balance comes between protecting privacy and the potential decrease in security measure's effectiveness.



Question

- How do you feel about the possibility of agencies, such as NSA, gathering information about you? Did the book change your opinion?