



Digital Communication – Privacy and Security

Journal Entry:

The year is April, 2013 and you are the President of the United States. You receive a call and are told that several bombs had been detonated at the Boston Marathon, killing and injuring many spectators. The bombs were built and detonated by two young men of Middle Eastern heritage, but who had been raised as Americans. You are very concerned about the future growth of home grown terrorists. You have the ability to authorize the NSA (The National Security Administration) to begin a secret program that will sift through all telephone calls and internet traffic in the United States. The law states that the government needs a court order in order to spy on Americans. But the government argues that the program won't target any one person, but will use powerful computers to mine through vast amounts of data. Your decision is a balancing act between **privacy rights** and **national security**. What do you do? Explain.



Play NSA Privacy Video.

Answer the following questions while viewing the video:

What was the mission of the NSA during the Cold War?

What was the cardinal rule for the NSA?

What is the name of the Super Secret Court that was set up as the exclusive authority to get warrants for wire taps on Americans by the NSA?

Why were Americans so upset with President Bush?

What is Data Mining or an Electronic Driftnet?

Why should Americans be far more concerned when they learn that the U.S. Government is spying or data mining versus when we learn a private company is data mining?