Day 8

Anonymity
Government control of Internet
Censorship

Other countries vs. US
Microsoft + NSA
Apple + FBI
Anonymity: Positive uses

- Protect political speech
- Protect against retaliation and embarrassment

- Anonymizing services: VPNs, TOR, etc.
  - used by reporters, human rights activists, citizens in repressive countries, law enforcement agencies, and government intelligence services
Anonymity: Negative uses

- Protects criminal activities
- Aids fraud → Amazon, eBay reviews
- Harassment,
- Extortion,
- Distribution of child pornography,
- Theft,
- Copyright infringement
- Online disinhibition effect
  - Empathy deficits / Cruelty

- Masks illegal surveillance by government agencies

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4891856/
Court Rules That Yelp Must Unmask the Identities of Seven Anonymous Reviewers

Just how strong are the legal protections for those posting critical reviews under pseudonyms on the Internet?
Government Censorship

Information + education = power
Authoritarian governments have **impeded flow of information** and opinion throughout history.

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<td>Western Countries</td>
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Egypt Cuts Off Most Internet and Cell Service

By MATT RICHTEL  JAN. 28, 2011

The Dictators’ Digital Dilemma: When Do States Disconnect Their Digital Networks?
Philip N. Howard, Sheetal D. Agarwal, and Muzammil M. Hussain

African Nations Increasingly Silence Internet to Stem Protests

By DIONNE SEARCEY and FRANCOIS ESSOMBA  FEB. 10, 2017

Myanmar 2021

Myanmar Under "Near-Total Internet Shutdown" For Second Night: Report

"Myanmar is in the midst of a near-total internet shutdown for a second consecutive night" as of 1 am local time, according to a tweet from NetBlocks, a group monitoring internet outages around the world.

World | Agence France-Presse | Updated: February 18, 2021 12:29 am IST

India 2022

'Iraq via War': A Covert Social Media Campaign Boosts Military Rulers

By Declan Walsh and Nada Rashwan
Sept. 6, 2019, New York Times

Iran 2022

Shutting down the internet is another brutal blow against women by the Iranian regime

Azadeh Akbari

Decades of activism led to mass protests against Mahsa Amini’s death. Free access to the web has to be a priority now.

https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/sep/26/elon-musk-iran-women-mahsa-амини-feminists-morality-police
Brazil orders cell phone carriers to block WhatsApp for 72 hours
Posted May 2, 2016 by Kate Conger (kateconger)

Brazil’s telecoms industry, which sees so-called “over the top” voice and messaging services delivered over the internet as a threat to its business model, has been lobbying the government for months to declare these services illegal, according to TechCrunch. But the telecoms may not be behind the short-lived shutdown: Reuters reports that a local TV network said the court order stemmed from a criminal case involving one of São Paulo’s largest gangs, which used WhatsApp “in the commission of crimes.”
And in the US?

- 2005: London subway bombings – remote detonation by phone
- 2009 →

**Local Police Want Right to Jam Wireless Signals**

Some federal agencies, including the FBI and the Secret Service, have standing authority to use jamming equipment or can request waivers from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, a Commerce Department agency, when there is an imminent threat, a federal official said.

Jamming has been approved in the past for major events, ranging from State of the Union addresses to visits by certain foreign dignitaries, according to a federal official who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk about the subject.
Communication Shutdowns – USA

- Public safety
- BART and protests (Aug 2011):
Boston Didn’t Shut Down Cell Service After Marathon Explosion, but Could Have

After the tragic explosions during the Boston Marathon on Monday, rumors circulated about whether authorities had shut down cell phone service to prevent any other detonations. That turned out not to be true.

By Jared Newman @OneJaredNewman | April 16, 2013 | 0

See: Standard Operating Procedure 303
Censor/Block vs. Spy on
PRISM Collection Details

Current Providers

- Microsoft (Hotmail, etc.)
- Google
- Yahoo!
- Facebook
- PalTalk
- YouTube
- Skype
- AOL
- Apple

What Will You Receive in Collection (Surveillance and Stored Comms)?
It varies by provider. In general:

- E-mail
- Chat – video, voice
- Videos
- Photos
- Stored data
- VoIP
- File transfers
- Video Conferencing
- Notifications of target activity – logins, etc.
- Online Social Networking details
- Special Requests

Complete list and details on PRISM web page:
Go PRISMFAA

TOP SECRET//SI//ORCON//NOFORN
Spy on vs. Infiltrate
Apple Fights Order to Unlock San Bernardino Gunman’s iPhone

Last October, James Orenstein, a federal magistrate judge in Brooklyn, expressed doubts about whether he could require Apple to disable its latest iPhone security features, citing the failure of Congress to resolve the issue despite the urging of the Justice Department.

The judge said such requests should fall under a different law, the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act of 1994, which covers telecommunications and broadband companies.

Congress has been debating whether to amend that act to include technology companies like Apple, Facebook and Google, and Judge Orenstein said he would consider ordering Apple to unlock the phone when and if Congress makes the change. That case is still pending.
Companies that do business in countries that control Internet access must comply with the local laws.

Google argues that some access is better than no access... is that true?

- Google.cn (2006-2010)
  - Chinese gov't says engine allows too much porn. Shut down.
- Google “Dragonfly” (2018)
Repressive governments intercept citizens’ communications and filter Internet content.

Companies in Western democracies sell them the sophisticated tools to do so.

California-based Narus (a Boeing subsidiary) sold Telecom Egypt “real-time traffic intelligence” and Deep Packet Inspection equipment. They also supply Pakistan, Bahrain, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

Texas-based Cisco systems “aggressively sought” the contracts to implement the Great Firewall of China.

http://en.rsf.org/companies-that-cooperate-with-02-09-2011,40914.html
"Anything that comes through (an Internet protocol network), we can record, we can reconstruct all of their e-mails along with attachments, see what web pages they clicked on; we can reconstruct their (Voice Over Internet Protocol) calls."

- Steve Bannerman, Narus' marketing vice president, to Wired, 2006

http://archive.wired.com/science/discoveries/news/2006/05/70914
Aiding foreign censors and repressive regimes

- Yahoo and French censorship
  - Yahoo, eBay and others make decisions to comply with foreign laws for business reasons

Will discuss further on Day 13.

- Skype and Chinese control
  - Chinese government requires modified version of Skype