

# British spies 'ignored MPs' when carrying out mass surveillance of public's internet activity

Nicola Spanti

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## The article

- ▶ Name : British spies 'ignored MPs' when carrying out mass surveillance of public's internet activity
- ▶ Author : Adam Withnall
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- ▶ Name of the newspaper : The Independent
- ▶ Frequency of publication of the newspaper : daily
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## The British Intelligence

*Tempora is a security electronic surveillance program tested in 2008, established in 2011 and operated by the British Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ). Tempora uses intercepts on the fibre-optic cables that make up the backbone of the internet to gain access to large amounts of internet users' personal data. The intercepts are placed in the United Kingdom and overseas, with the knowledge of companies owning either the cables or landing stations. The existence of Tempora was revealed by Edward Snowden, a former American intelligence contractor. Snowden claimed that data collected by the Tempora programme is shared with the National Security Agency of the United States.*

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

## The Draft Communications Data Bill

*The Draft Communications Data Bill (nicknamed the "snoopers' charter") is draft legislation proposed by Home Secretary Theresa May in the United Kingdom which would require Internet service providers and mobile phone companies to maintain records (but not the content) of each user's internet browsing activity, voice calls, and mobile phone messaging services and store the records for 12 months. Retention of email and telephone contact data for this time is already required. Since the Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg withdrew his support for this bill in April 2013, it now seems unlikely to become law based on the current draft.*

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

## What the article says

- ▶ The former Labour Chief Whip Nick Brown warned that even if the methods of the "snoopers' charter" were ruled out by Members of Parliament earlier this year, British spies work as if the text had been agreed.
- ▶ Julian Huppert, who was also on the parliamentary committee dealing with the draft bill, did not know that Tempora existed. So he is wondering who knew and who made the decision not to tell?

## Does the NSA comply with the law?

The *National Security Agency* does not comply with the law for many reasons.

One of the key fact is that the NSA does not respect the fourth amendment to the United States Constitution.

*The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.*

## And France?

- ▶ In an article, *The Guardian* says that "French [...] intelligence services have developed methods of mass surveillance of internet and phone traffic".
- ▶ Fleur Pellerin, the minister of digital economy, says that Alcatel-Lucent was important for cyber-surveillance.
- ▶ France lets Amesys sold tools for spying a whole nation to Libya and other countries.
- ▶ And many others things (reading [reflets.info](http://reflets.info) is a good way to know more).

## What the European Parliament thinks about mass surveillance

The European Parliament has recently made a report called "National programmes for mass surveillance of personal data in EU member states and their compatibility with EU law".

*It is the purpose and the scale of surveillance that are precisely at the core of what differentiates democratic regimes and police states.*

*Surveillance programmes in EU member states are incompatible with minimum democratic rule of law standards which nurture from the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the European Convention of Human Rights, and are in turn constitutive components of their national constitutional traditions.*



## A quote from Julian Assage to conclude

*The world is not sliding, but galloping into a new transnational dystopia. This development has not been properly recognized outside of national security circles. It has been hidden by secrecy, complexity and scale. The internet, our greatest tool of emancipation, has been transformed into the most dangerous facilitator of totalitarianism we have ever seen. The internet is a threat to human civilization.*

*These transformations have come about silently, because those who know what is going on work in the global surveillance industry and have no incentives to speak out. Left to its own trajectory, within a few years, global civilization will be a postmodern surveillance dystopia, from which escape for all but the most skilled individuals will be impossible. In fact, we may already be there.*