



HAL
open science

Security without Mandatory Internet Backdoors

Carl Hewitt

► **To cite this version:**

Carl Hewitt. Security without Mandatory Internet Backdoors: Using Distributed Encrypted Public Recording to Catch Criminals. 2015. hal-01152495v9

HAL Id: hal-01152495

<https://hal.science/hal-01152495v9>

Preprint submitted on 20 Nov 2015 (v9), last revised 14 Jun 2016 (v14)

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

Copyright

Security without Mandatory Internet Backdoors

Using Distributed Encrypted Public Recording to Catch Criminals

Our greatest enemy is our own apathy.

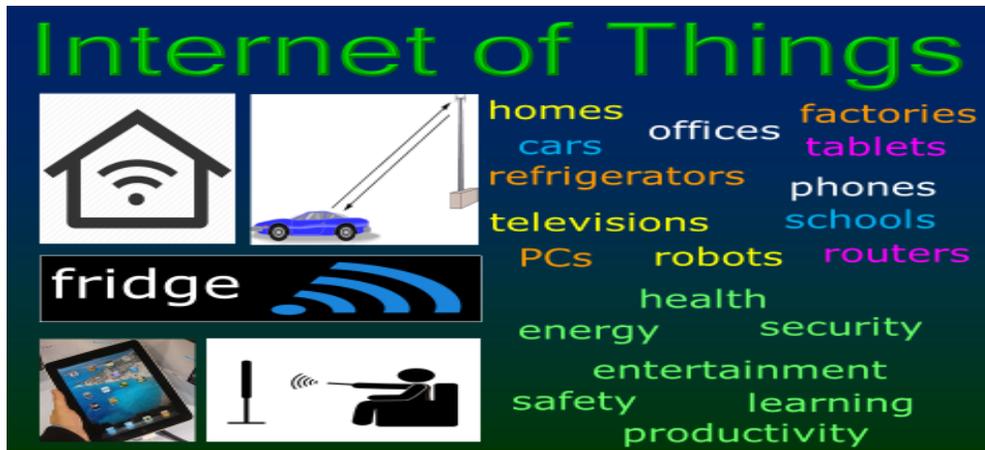
Bill Mullinax

Carl Hewitt

Board Chair of Standard IoT™ Foundation

<https://plus.google.com/+CarlHewitt-StandardIoT/>

The Internet of Things (IoT)ⁱ is becoming pervasive in all aspects of life including personal, corporate, government, and social. Adopting mandatory Internet backdoorsⁱⁱ for every IoT device ultimately means that security agencies of each country surveil IoT in their own country and perhaps swap surveillance information with other countries.^{[9][23][24]} Security agencies have proposed that it must be possible for them to secretly access and take control of any individual IoT device. However adopting their proposal would make it very difficult to prevent them from accessing and controlling large numbers of devices and abusing their surveillance capabilities.^{[7][8][9][23][24]} Also, adopting mandatory Internet backdoors would be corrosive to civil liberties because any phone, body-sensor computer network^[21], TV, and other IoT deviceⁱⁱⁱ could be secretly accessed and controlled without any awareness by those present using the device.^{[7][9][12][24][26]} A critical security issue is that after a backdoor has been exercised to take control of a citizen's IoT device without their awareness, the device thereby becomes somewhat *less* secure because of potential vulnerabilities in the new virtualized system used to take control of the device.^{[1][8][9][14][24]}



IoT Ubiquity

ⁱ e.g., body-sensor computer networks, cell phones, refrigerators, TVs, PCs, Internet LEDs, etc.

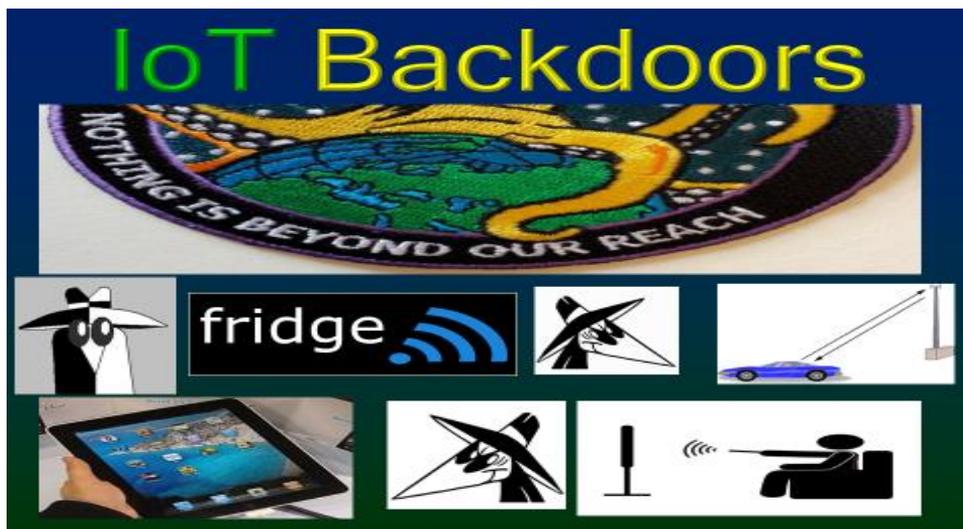
ⁱⁱ A *backdoor* is means by which a cyber device can be secretly accessed and controlled by parties that were not specifically enumerated concerning kinds of information and control that were not specifically described that was not specifically authorized by users of the device.

ⁱⁱⁱ e.g. in bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchens, and autos

Distributed Encrypted Public Recording (DEPR) is system in which distributed^{iv} public and private organizations keep encrypted electronic records of all activity that takes place in public places including tracking automobiles, cell phones locations, humans (using facial recognition), and all financial transactions. The records can be decrypted only by court warrant using both a key kept by the recording establishment and a key provided by the court. If not court ordered within a time set at recording, the recordings cannot read by anyone (enforced by cryptography using a trans-national distributed Internet time authority). In addition to ensuring that outdated information cannot be decrypted, the trans-national time authority can provide continual statistics on the amount of decrypted information as a deterrent to mass surveillance. Advanced Inconsistency Robust^[13] information technology can be a very powerful tool for catching criminals using DEPR. Using DEPR is a less risky to civil liberties than requiring mandatory Internet backdoors for all IoT devices.

However, IoT devices will require much more powerful integrated security technology than the current patchwork, which can almost always be circumvented by state-sponsored intruders.^{[4][5][9][13][19][22][24]} Using mechanisms outlined in this article, the US can immediately launch a crash program to secure IoT devices (including corporate, citizen, utility, and government) thereby making them dramatically more secure.^[14]

FBI Director James Comey's proposed on October 17, 2014 that CALEA be expanded so that every cell phone, body-sensor computer network^[21], personal computer and any other network-enabled products and services that operate in the US must have a backdoor to provide security agencies with the ability to secretly access and take control of the device^{[9][24]} with the assent of US courts.



Power of IoT Internet Backdoors

^{iv} stores, restaurants, sports events, parks, theaters, etc.

Mandatory backdoor technology can build on already developed CIA/GCHQ/NSA surveillance technology including QUANTUM, SMURF, TURBINE, TURMOIL, UNITEDRAKE, WARRIOR PRIDE, and VALIDATOR.^{[9][24]} The equivalent of a different public key can be installed by the manufacturer on each device. For each public key, a private key can be split and sent to government authorities of the nation in which the device is to be sold.^[29] To secure private keys, means can be used that scale up technology currently used to control keys in nuclear command, control, and communication systems. However, many nations have had numerous security problem with their nuclear weapon controls.^{[1][25]} Using the above technology, it would theoretically be possible to create a system for protecting the keys of a backdoor system that is highly secure against outside attackers and even against a small number of inside conspirators by using multiple command centers with split keys. A critical security issue is that after a backdoor has been exercised to take over a citizen's IoT device without their awareness, the device thereby becomes somewhat *less* secure because of potential vulnerabilities in the new virtualized system used to take over the device.^{[9][14][24]}

The FBI mandatory backdoor proposal for all IoT (including devices that electronically communicate with IoT) can influence countries to require that IoT products sold in a country must be audited against backdoors available to *other* countries.^{[3][26][29][28]} It is technically much easier to audit against *all* backdoors than to audit against other countries being able to exploit an *already installed* backdoor. Mandatory backdoors can increase the risks of both preemptive cyberwar^[11] and kinetic responses to cyberattacks because of potential vulnerabilities in the many different government backdoor implementations.^{[22][26]} Also, mandatory backdoors can increase the security risks to military equipment because they might be exploited by enemy forces. Furthermore, mandatory Internet backdoors can enormously increase the power of government security agencies.^{[7][24][27][30]}

Adopting mandatory Internet backdoors for every IoT device could ultimately cause the following:

- security agencies of each country surveil IoT in their own country and perhaps swap surveillance information with other countries.^{[9][22]}
- make it very difficult to prevent security services from accessing and controlling large numbers of devices and abusing their surveillance capabilities.^{[7][8][9][22][22]}
- corrosion of civil liberties because any phone, body-sensor network, computer, and other IoT device (including those in bedrooms, bathrooms, and autos) could be secretly accessed and controlled without any awareness of those present.^{[7][9][12][22]}
- lower security because after a security service has secretly taken control of an IoT device, the device thereby becomes *less* secure against other potential attackers.^{[1][8][22]}

Security agencies have issued secret orders to US corporations allowing security agencies to conduct surveillance worldwide with gag orders that this surveillance not be disclosed.^{[4][8][13][20][23][27][30]}

The resulting mass surveillance of foreigners has caused US tech industry as a whole, not just the cloud computing sector, to under-perform with losses north of \$180B and still climbing.^{[3][23]} “*In short, foreign customers are shunning U.S. companies.*”^[4] These losses would be increased

tenfold if they spread to manufacturers that include IoT connected to their datacenters, which stands to include almost *everything*.

The FBI mandatory backdoor proposal has increased mistrust by foreign governments and citizens alike, with the consequence that companies can be required to hire their own independent cyberauditors and/or submit to cyberaudits by foreign governments to ensure that exports do not have backdoors accessible by the US government.^{[3][4][17][26][28]}

Likewise, every government can require that IoT sold in their country do not have backdoors accessible to other governments.^{[3][4][18][26][28]}

Foreign-domiciled datacenters *cannot be credibly audited* because:

- A foreign-domiciled company is subject to foreign laws, gag orders, and other pressures to cooperate with their intelligence agencies.^{[5][10]}
- Infiltrators (protected from exposure by the domiciled government using pressure and gag orders) can facilitate secret bulk access to company datacenter information. It is a severe crime expose an undercover government agent.
- Geographically distributed datacenters require on-site auditors in numerous locations
- Replicated information means vulnerabilities could be at any datacenter
- Enormous traffic in and out (including legitimate traffic with other datacenters that might end up with intelligence agencies) makes detecting mass surveillance extremely difficult
- Hardware has continual upgrades and downgrades.
- Software is constantly changing in real-time.

Because no foreign-domiciled company can provide credible assurance that a foreign intelligence agency does not have bulk access to the company’s (foreign and domestic) datacenters, the Chinese government is insisting on the following:^{[5][25]}

- “Guarantee the security of user information. To employ effective measures to guarantee that any user information that is collected or processed isn't illegally altered, leaked, or used; to not transfer, store or process any sensitive user information collected within the China market outside China's borders without express permission of the user or approval from relevant authorities.”
- “Accept [Chinese government] assessment and verification that products are secure and controllable and that user information is protected etc. to prove actual compliance with these commitments.”

On March 2, 2015, President Obama complained about government attempts to require backdoors in companies' products saying "As you might imagine tech companies are not going to be willing to do that... I don't think there is any U.S. or European firm, any international firm, that could credibly get away with that wholesale turning over of data, personal data, over to a government."

Future exports of U.S. companies can be required to be certified by corporate officers and independently audited not to have backdoors available to the U.S. government.^{[2][3][4][26]}

For national security reasons, many nations could demand that the sensitive information of their citizens not be accessible in the datacenters of foreign-domiciled corporations.^{[3][4][28]}

Much greater security can be achieved using imported audited IoT devices than can be achieved using datacenters of a foreign domiciled corporation, which might be operating under a gag order issued by foreign security agencies and known to just a few employees of the corporation with very high-level security clearances.^{[26][27][28][30]}

Growing mistrust of the security of sensitive citizen information stored in datacenters of foreign-domiciled corporations is a severe problem for multi-

Other countries are considering adopting policies similar to China, which could cause huge losses to a US domiciled company because it could not export IoT devices (just about everything manufactured) that communicate citizens' sensitive information with the company's datacenters.^[8] For example, the Advocate General of the European Court of Justice stated:^[3]

- "The access of the United States intelligence services to the data transferred [to US domiciled companies] covers, in a comprehensive manner, all persons using electronic communications services, without any requirement that the persons concerned represent a threat to national security."
- "Such mass, indiscriminate surveillance is inherently disproportionate and constitutes an unwarranted interference with the rights guaranteed by articles seven and eight of the charter [of fundamental rights of the EU]."

An IoT Security Commission (ISC) could to be established with jurisdiction over all providers of IoT equipment in the US:^[13]

- require that every kind of IoT device be audited, *e.g.*, using operational bi-simulation against a publicly available operational specification overview.
- require that corporate security reports signed by the corporate officers of a covered company, which must specify either that no evidence for the existence of a backdoor was found in any of the company's IoT products or that evidence that was found for the existence of backdoors and the measures that were taken to remove backdoors from any products that were shipped and to prevent re-occurrence.
- provide independent oversight of public security accounting firms providing cyberaudit services ("cyberauditors") that register cyberauditors,
- define specific processes and procedures for compliance cyberaudits, inspect and police cyberaudit conduct and quality control, restrict cyberauditing companies from providing non-audit services (*e.g.*, consulting) for the same clients
- enforce compliance with specific legal mandates, *e.g.*, the use of RAM-processor encryption and every-word-tagged extensions of ARM and X86 processors.

nationals.^{[3][4][18][23][24][27][30]} For national security reasons, many nations could demand that the sensitive information of their citizens not be accessible in the datacenters of foreign-domiciled corporations.^{[3][4][27]}

Mass surveillance by the US Government (in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia, Yemen, *etc.*) has been extraordinarily successful with the result that “*Al Qaeda Has Been Decimated*” according to President Obama. Chinese security agencies have accessed US computer systems to collect sensitive information on millions of Americans.^[19] Under the likes of the US National Reconnaissance Organization slogan “*Nothing is beyond our reach*”, US security agencies have likewise have conducted extensive surveillance including secretly accessing and taking control of information systems in China.^{[3][4][24]} The extreme effectiveness of electronic mass surveillance (in Afghanistan, *etc.*) has demonstrated how risky government surveillance (including secretly accessing and taking control of information technology) have become to civil liberties.

Mass surveillance has a long history of being used to terrorize and intimidate political opponents, unpopular minorities, and the populace in general. State terrorists achieve political objectives by creating a general climate of fear. For example, J. Edgar Hoover (FBI), Joe McCarthy (US Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations), Erich Mielke (Stasi)^[7], *etc.* terrorized citizens of their countries. Cyberterrorists can exploit the immense power of IoT backdoors to create mass terror on a scale that was heretofore unimaginable. Following the US Senate committee investigation into domestic spying by the U.S. intelligence community, Committee Chairman Frank Church made the following prophetic statement:

“[The NSA’s] *capability at any time could be turned around on the American people, and no American would have any privacy left, such [is] the capability to monitor everything: telephone conversations, telegrams, it doesn't matter.*”

There is, Church said, “*tremendous potential for abuse*” should the NSA “*turn its awesome technology against domestic communications.*”

Mike Rogers (current Director of NSA) on at the Aspen Security Conference on July 23, 2015 said, “*That the capabilities of the [US] government will not be used against us [US citizens] indiscriminately is fundamental to our structure as a nation.*”

Datacenterism (*i.e.*, a system in which *all* electronic information is accessible in datacenters) is becoming the standard business model of the Internet. (Of course, encrypted information is not accessible unless the corresponding decryption key is accessible.)

As each cyberattack increases pressure to react, security agencies in many countries can obtain bulk access to more and more information in datacenters using interconnectivity with government surveillance datacenters in order to speed and coordinate government security efforts.^{[8][27][30]} The exact nature of interconnectivity with government security datacenters is in each case a closely guarded corporate secret that can be enforced by government gag orders.^{[8][27][30]}

Consequently, Datacenterism tends to progress towards *CyberTotalism*, a system in which all electronic information is accessible in corporate and government datacenters with *total access* by the government to its citizens' information.^{[4][27][30]}

Edward Snowden at IETF 93 characterized the path from *CyberLocalism* to *CyberTotalism* as follows: “*idea of a simple core and smart edges -- that's what we planned for. That's what we wanted. That's what we expected, but what happened in secret, over a very long period of time was changed to a very dumb edge and a deadly core.*”

- *Datacenterism* is a system in which all electronic information is accessible in datacenters.
- *CyberTotalism* is a system in which all electronic information is accessible in corporate and government datacenters with *total access* by the government.
- *Sensitive information* is nonpublic information whose revelation can potentially harm a citizen, medical (including psychiatric), legal, financial, sexual, political, and religious.
- *CyberLocalism* is a system in which a citizen's Internet of Things information is stored locally in their own equipment—the *antithesis of both Datacenterism and CyberTotalism*.

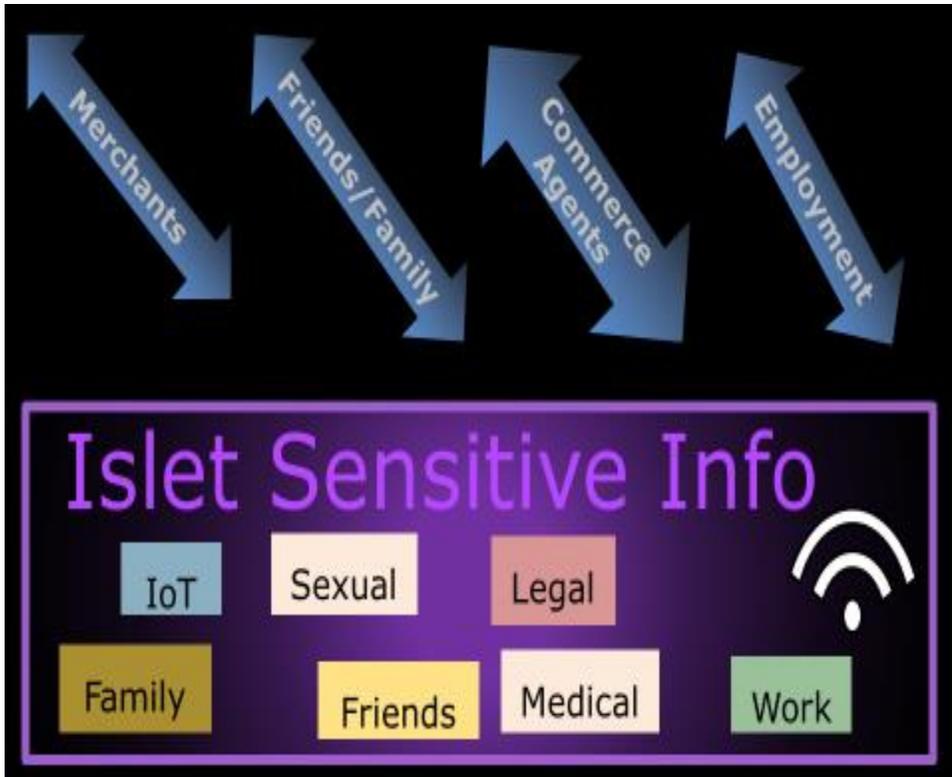
To facilitate faster and more comprehensive security operations, security agencies need to use corporate information mining tools in corporate datacenters for (perhaps with some direct costs reimbursed by the government^[20]) thereby making corporate engineers and executives *increasingly complicit in mass surveillance*.^{[4][15][20][27][30]} Furthermore, businesses can be harmed by their inability to change datacenter operations because it would disrupt government surveillance. Government security agencies can enforce uniformity of datacenter operations across companies to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of their surveillance operations at the cost of inhibiting innovation and flexibility of company operations.^{[3][4][14][20][27]} Consequently, corporations need to better understand that sensitive citizen information is not always a corporate asset and instead can be a toxic corporate liability.^{[3][4][5][6][14][15][20][27]}

In a competitive race down an ethical abyss, many Internet companies depend on ever greater surveillance in order to better target consumers for advertising.^{[7][15][16]} However, a nation's security depends on limiting surveillance of their citizens by foreign security agencies enabled by Internet companies domiciled in other nations.^{[6][8][22]}

Fortunately, there is an alternative to *CyberTotalism*: *CyberLocalism* is a system in which a citizen's sensitive information is stored locally in on their own equipment (without backdoors) – *the antithesis of both Datacenterism and CyberTotalism*.^[14]

CyberLocalism might never come to fruition unless it is supported by a business model that is more efficient and effective than the currently popular system of *Datacenterism*.^[14] Consequently, the Standard IoT™ international nonprofit standards organization has proposed *Islets™* information coordination systems as

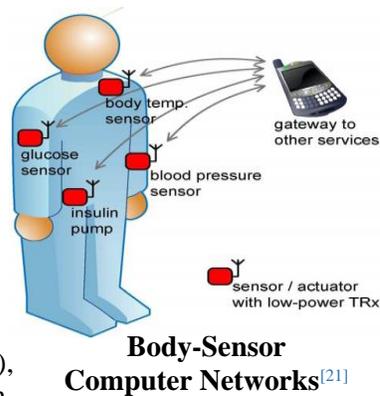
the foundational basis for information coordination and interaction services for a citizen's sensitive IoT information. Each Islet can be hosted on a citizen's own equipment, e.g., routers, body-sensor computer networks^[21], refrigerators, car, cell phones, TVs, autos, and PCs.



Islet™ Information Coordination and Interaction for Sensitive Info

The right against self-incrimination by body-sensor computer networks^[21] will be become increasingly important thereby making mandatory Internet IoT backdoors a severe threat to citizens' rights.

An Islet can provide additional capabilities that are not currently available for coordinating and interacting with cyberthings^v including *commerce* (home, retail, food, travel, auto, etc.), *wellness* (recreation, biometrics, nutrition, exercise, spirituality, medical, learning, etc.),



^v A *CyberThing* is a physical or electronic artifact of Internet systems, e.g., body-sensor computer networks, light fixture, email, refrigerator, voice mail, cellphone, SMS, and electronic door locks. on the Internet.

Finance (banking, investments, taxes, *etc.*), *IoT* (food management, security, energy management, infotainment, transportation, communication, *etc.*)^[2], *Social* (schedule, friends, family, *etc.*), and *Work* (contacts, schedule, colleagues, *etc.*)^[14]

Of course, all of the convenience that is currently available must also be available so that an Islet can access the Internet to provide scalable search, retrieval, and collaboration using commercial datacenters in cooperation with other citizens' equipment. Also, Islet information can be backed up elsewhere

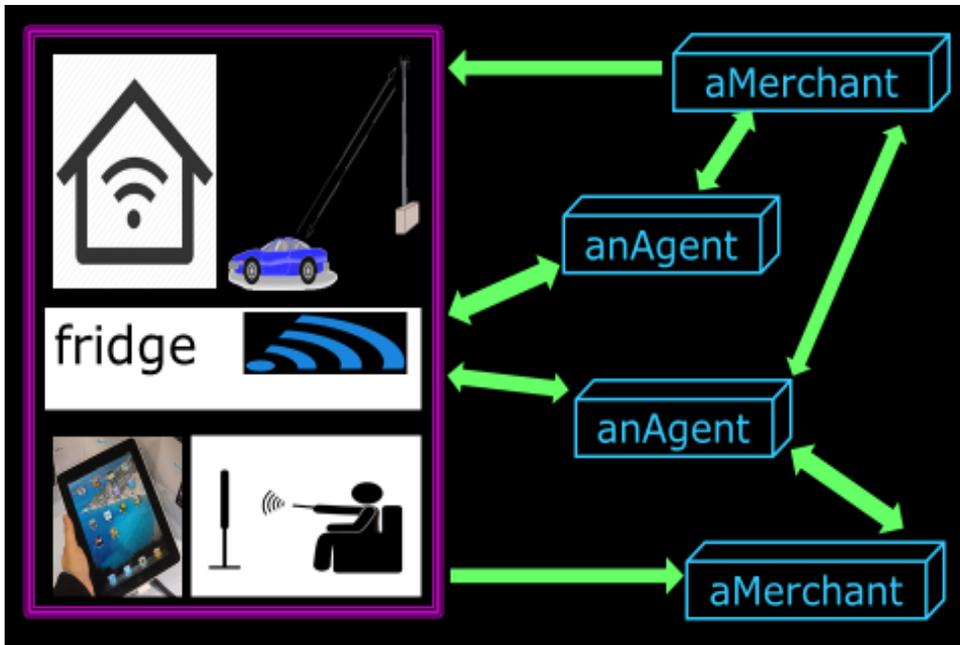
automatically encrypted using the citizen's public keys, *e.g.*, in commercial datacenters and distributed on other citizens' equipment. Furthermore, a citizen can share Islet information that they select with others (automatically encrypted with the public keys of other parties so that it be read only by the intended recipient).

Classical logic (a foundation for relational databases) is *not* a suitable foundation for IoT information coordination because a single (hidden) inconsistency can cause incorrect reasoning.

Fortunately, recent advances in the development of inconsistency-robust information systems technology can be used to more safely reason about pervasively inconsistent information (even without knowing which pieces of information might be inconsistent).^[13]

Islets have important advantages over datacenterism:^{[8][18][25]}

- lower communications cost because it is not necessary to always communicate with datacenters
- faster response because local operations can be faster than always interacting with potentially overloaded datacenters,
- better coordination of IoT because it can be difficult to get datacenters of *fierce* competitors to coordinate concerning the interoperation of a citizen's IoT devices,
- greater reliability because communication with datacenters might be interrupted^[19]
- better protection of a citizen's sensitive information because it is not always available in datacenters accessible by security agencies.



Islet Coordinating with Agents and Merchants Business Model

Recent advances in the development of inconsistency-robust information systems technology^[13] can be used to facilitate new business implementations that are more *effective*, *pervasive*, and *profitable* by improving interactions among consumers and merchants because consumers would no longer be continually hassled by intrusive unwanted advertisements. Instead, an Islet running on a consumer's equipment can provide the ability to seek and help evaluate appropriate offers from commerce agents for their purchases. Commerce agents can earn commissions and fees from merchants when a citizen uses the referrals. Also, merchants would no longer be burdened by having to pay for *grossly inefficient* advertising that annoys potential customers. Instead, businesses can provide their information to commerce agents that aggregate and package it for a citizen's' Islet to be used in evaluating offers. Again, commerce agents can earn commissions and fees from merchants from referrals.

Attempting to provide CyberThing coordination and interaction services for a citizen by patching together datacenter services from fierce competitors^{vi} is much more difficult than using an Islet.^[14]

^{vi} Amazon, Apple, Carrier, Cisco, Dell, Electrolux, Facebook, GE, Google, Haier, HP, Huawei, IBM, Intel, Lenovo, LG, Microsoft, Panasonic, Samsung, Whirlpool, *etc.*

Sensitive information is nonpublic information whose revelation can potentially harm a citizen, e.g., medical (including psychiatric), legal, financial, sexual, political, and religious. For example, the FBI tapped into conversations between Robert Oppenheimer and his lawyer during the hearing designed to humiliate him by having his security clearance removed in order to punish him for some of his political views. Also, the FBI COINTELPRO program persecuted thousands, e.g., gay people, almost all groups protesting the Vietnam War, and organizations and individuals associated with the women's rights movement. Furthermore, the FBI recorded conversations between Martin Luther King and his mistresses and then used the information to blackmail him suggesting that he commit suicide in order to avoid exposure. Likewise, maintaining files on millions of East Germans, the Stasi secretly ruined the lives of tens of thousands.^[12]

CyberLocalism requires greater security of citizens' Internet of Things devices because currently state-sponsored intruders can secretly access and take control of almost any citizen's personal cellphone^{[8][24]}, computer, body-sensor computer network^[21], etc. on the Internet.

Public keys for IoT ownership are required so that an IoT device has both a public key of its owner, which is installed when ownership is transferred as well as its own unique public/private key pair, which is created internally when acquired by the first owner. An owner can communicate securely with a device by encrypting information using the device's public key. (For efficiency reasons, most communication can be performed using symmetric keys encrypted/signed by public keys.)

The US Senate Select Committee *Final Report on Intelligence Activities and the Rights of Americans* [1976] documented Constitutionally illegal surveillance by modern Presidents [summarized in Wikipedia]:

- President Roosevelt asked the FBI to put in its files the names of citizens sending telegrams to the White House opposing his “national defense” policy and supporting Col. Charles Lindbergh.
- President Truman received inside information on a former Roosevelt aide's efforts to influence his appointments, labor union negotiating plans, and the publishing plans of journalists.
- President Eisenhower received reports on purely political and social contacts with foreign officials by Bernard Baruch, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas.
- The Kennedy administration had the FBI wiretap a congressional staff member, three executive officials, a lobbyist, and a Washington law firm while US Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy received the fruits of an FBI wiretap on Martin Luther King, Jr. and an electronic listening device targeting a congressman, both of which yielded information of a political nature.
- President Johnson asked the FBI to conduct “name checks” of his critics and members of the staff of his 1964 opponent, Senator Barry Goldwater and he also requested purely political intelligence on his critics in the Senate, and received extensive intelligence reports on political activity at the 1964 Democratic Convention from FBI electronic surveillance.
- President Nixon authorized a program of wiretaps which produced for the White House purely political or personal information unrelated to national security, including information about a Supreme Court Justice.

Currently, the US government conducts massive worldwide surveillance.^{[4][8][9][10][15][18][20][22][23]}

Public keys for IoT ownership are required so that an IoT device has both a public key of its owner, which is installed when ownership is transferred as well as its own unique public/private key pair, which is created internally when acquired by the first owner. An owner can communicate securely with a device by encrypting information using the device's public key. (For efficiency reasons, most communication can be performed using symmetric keys encrypted/signed by public keys.) A device takes instructions only from its owner and is allowed to communicate with the external world only through the information coordination system of its owner. The nonprofit Standard IoT Foundation is working to develop standards based on the Actor Model of computation that provide for interoperation among existing and emerging consortium and proprietary corporate IoT standards.

Increased hardware architecture security is needed to help cope with the complexity of software systems that can never be made highly secure without hardware assistance.^{[13][14]}

Because of impending endpoint security improvements described in this article, it can become extremely difficult even for state-sponsored intruders to secretly access and take control of IoT devices,

To achieve adequate security, CyberLocalism has the following requirements:^{[13][14]}

- strong personal authentication, *e.g.*, using (3D) continuous interactive bio-authentication instead of passwords.
- strong, ubiquitous public key authentication is required so that it can be verified to whom a public key corresponds. Often this authentication can be performed by local bank offices, *etc.* that publish online multi-national directories of public keys in a network of mistrust. Individual citizens can have their own directories of public keys that are used to automatically and invisibly securely communicate with others. A citizen or organization can have more than one authenticated public key with various levels of security.

Needed hardware extensions for Islets include:

- RAM-processor package encryption (*i.e.* all traffic between a processor package and RAM is encrypted using a uniquely generated key when a package is powered up and which is invisible to all software) to protect an app (*i.e.* a user application, which is technically a process) from operating systems and hypervisors, other apps, and other equipment, *e.g.*, baseband processors, disk controllers, and USB controllers.
- Every-word-tagged extensions of ARM and X86 processors are needed to protect an Actor in an app from other Actors by using a tag on each word of memory that controls how the memory can be used. Each Actor is protected from reading and/or writing by other Actors in its process. Actors can interact only by sending a message to the unforgeable address of another Actor. Existing software implementations (*e.g.*, operating systems, browsers, data bases, and mail systems) will need to be upgraded to use tags.
- On a processor package, encryption can be used to augment error correction on bus communication between hardware Actors in order facilitate auditing of the processor.

including body-sensor computer networks^[21], cell phones^{[9][24]}, personal computers, refrigerators, TVs, *etc.*

Conclusion

*The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil
is for good men [and women] to do nothing.*
Edmund Burke

The current capability of the US government to conduct mass surveillance on everyone in the world is coming to an end. The speed of cessation will depend in large part on how fast the security measures presented in this article are deployed.^[13]

In a competitive race down an ethical abyss, many Internet companies depend on ever increasing consumer surveillance in order to better target advertising. However, a nation's security depends on limiting surveillance of their citizens by foreign intelligence agencies enabled by companies domiciled in other nations. The presumption is that intelligence agencies have access to all information in datacenters of foreign-domiciled companies. Consequently, a nation's security requires that its citizens' sensitive information not be accessible in datacenters of foreign-domiciled companies. Furthermore, every imported IoT device (cell phone, refrigerator, car, insulin pump, TV, climate-control system, *etc.*) is going to have to be certified not to have a backdoor available to a foreign intelligence agency. Thus US industry faces the crises that its current IoT business model is about to become illegal. Already experts put losses to US tech industry as a whole, not just the cloud computing sector, north of \$180B and still climbing.^{[5][13]} Since almost all manufactured exports will soon include IoT, we can expect that losses to US industry will be well north of \$2T unless drastic changes are made.

Going forward, security agencies have proposed mandatory backdoors for all IoT in order that they can always be able to surveil anything and everything that might be deemed necessary by the government.^[14] As indicated by NSA Director Mike Rogers, mandatory backdoors mean that security agencies of each country surveil citizens in their own country^[14] and can swap surveillance information with other countries. Mandatory Internet backdoors are fraught with peril because making it possible for security agencies to secretly access and take control of each individual IoT device can make it very difficult to prevent security agencies from accessing and controlling large numbers of devices thereby abusing their surveillance capabilities.^[13] A critical security issue is that after a backdoor has been exercised to take control of a citizen's IoT device without their awareness, the device thereby becomes somewhat *less* secure because of potential vulnerabilities in the new virtualized system used to take control of the device.^{[1][8][9][14][24]} Of course, any attempt to *change* the device's application behavior can introduce additional vulnerabilities.

The right against self-incrimination by body-sensor computer networks^[21] will be become increasingly important. Consequently, mandatory IoT Internet backdoors could become a severe threat to citizens' rights. Just the public awareness itself that any IoT device (e.g. cell phone^{[9][24]}, TV, auto, PC, body-sensor computer networks^[21]) could be secretly accessed and controlled by security agencies could be extremely corrosive to social arrangements.^{[3][4][9][22]} Going forward, mandatory Internet backdoors can be used by a government to tightly control its own populace, which would constitute a fundamental change in social relationships with unknown but enormous consequences.^[14] It was extremely abusive to use people's sensitive information against them as was done by the Stasi, Hoover's FBI, etc.^{[7][12]} Because of improving information technology using IoT (e.g. cell phone^{[9][24]}, TV, auto, PC, body-sensor computer networks^[21]), preventing such abuses will become ever more important.^{[3][4][5][15][16]} Adopting Islets would go a long way toward protecting citizens' sensitive information against both government and corporate abuse.^[14]

One of the most effective policies that could be adopted to maintain civil liberties is the following:

Mandate that starting in 2018, all IoT devices (cell phones, climate control systems, televisions, cars, refrigerators, insulin pumps, etc.) must be certified against backdoors.

Mandatory secret surveillance by each nation's security agencies imposed on corporations domiciled in the nation could tremendously reduce the power and resources of multinational Internet companies^{vii} versus governments of nation states because these companies would not be able to operate internationally because no country would trust sensitive information of its citizens to be stored in datacenters accessible by security agencies of other countries.^{[5][18][20][23][24][27]} One outcome is that multi-nationals to become separate corporations domiciled in each nation (for security reasons) to serve just that nation, which is already happening in China and other countries.^{[3][4][5]} A multinational could take the proceeds of the IPO for spinning off a separate company in each country as a franchise. Attestation and RAM-processor package encryption technology will make corporations domiciled in each country more affordable by enabling them to more securely share capacity in datacenters located in each country.^[13]

On August 1, 2007, (then Senator) Barack Obama called for an alternative to oppressive mass surveillance saying “*That means no more illegal wiretapping of American citizens. No more national security letters to spy on citizens who are not suspected of a crime. No more tracking of citizens who do no more than protest a misguided war.*”

^{vii} Alibaba, Amazon, Apple, Cisco, Facebook, Google, HP, IBM, Intel, LG, Microsoft, Panasonic, Samsung, Yahoo, etc.

Distributed Encrypted Public Recording (DEPR) inhibits mass surveillance by requiring a court warrant to access encrypted information recorded by distributed parties (*e.g.*, stores, restaurants, sports events, parks, theaters, *etc.*) with a write-once log kept for all accesses thereby making mass surveillance more costly, both politically and economically. Advanced Inconsistency Robust^[13] information technology can be a very powerful tool for catching criminals using DEPR because it can provide principled methods and technology for processing large amounts of pervasively inconsistent information.^[13]

Available alternatives are summarized in the following table:

<p>Enterprise and Citizen Islets™ Information Coordination^[14]</p>	<p>Datacenterism^{[5][6][8][14][18][20][23][27]}</p>
<p>Business model^{[7][14]}</p> <p>Islet-agent-merchant brokering^[8]</p>	<p>Business model^{[7][13]}</p> <p>Ever increasing consumer surveillance for better targeted advertising</p>
<p>Security model^{[7][8][14]}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RAM-processor package encryption to protect applications from memory-bus devices (USB, disk, baseband processors, etc.), other applications, and also from hypervisors and operating systems ○ Every-word tagged architecture to protector Actors from other Actors in the same process ○ Strong biometric authentication ○ Auditable public keys for citizens and IoT ownership ○ <i>No backdoors in Islets</i> 	<p>Security model^{[8][14]}</p> <p>Security agencies have access to all information of companies domestically domiciled (with gag orders) including datacenters located in foreign countries</p>
<p>Surveillance Model</p> <p>Distributed Encrypted Public Recording (DEPR)^[14]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Record all information not in Islets ● Accessible only by individualized court warrant ● Totally inaccessible after a set time period (enforced by encryption) 	<p>Surveillance Model</p> <p>Mandatory Internet backdoors for all IoT^{[5][9][14]}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Any IoT device can be accessed and controlled if connected to the Internet ● Includes body-sensor computer networks ● Each nation surveils its own citizens ● Potential security vulnerabilities after security services have taken control of a device

Available alternatives

Acknowledgements

This article has greatly benefited from detailed critiques and organizational suggestions of Alan Karp and Andy Rosenbloom, editorial suggestions of Dennis Allison, Henri Gouraud and Richard Waldinger, comments by Chip Morningstar, conversations with Erik Meijer, Jeff Rulifson and Mary-Anne Williams, and suggestions of Ron Rivest and Peter Neumann. John Dalton provided design and editorial consulting.

The author's Erlang keynote address *Actors for CyberThings*^[14] covers some of the material in this article.

The Author

Professor [Carl Hewitt](#) is the creator (together with his students and other colleagues) of the [Actor Model](#) of computation, which influenced the development of the Scheme programming language and the π calculus, and inspired several other systems and programming languages. The Actor Model is in widespread industrial use including eBay, Microsoft, and Twitter. For his doctoral thesis, he designed [Planner](#), the first programming language based on pattern-invoked procedural plans.

Professor Hewitt's recent research centers on the area of [Inconsistency Robustness](#), *i.e.*, system performance in the face of continual, pervasive inconsistencies (a shift from the previously dominant paradigms of inconsistency denial and inconsistency elimination, *i.e.*, to sweep inconsistencies under the rug). [ActorScript](#) and the Actor Model on which it is based can play an important role in the implementation of more inconsistency-robust information systems. Hewitt is an advocate in the emerging campaign against mandatory installation of Internet backdoors in the Internet of Things.

Hewitt is Board Chair of [iRobust](#)TM, an international scientific society for the promotion of the field of Inconsistency Robustness. He is also Board Chair of [Standard IoT](#)TM, an international standards organization for the Internet of Things, which is using the Actor Model to unify and generalize emerging standards for IoT. He has been a Visiting Professor at Stanford University and Keio University and is Emeritus in the EECS department at MIT.

References

- [1] Harold Abelson, Ross Anderson, Steven Bellovin, Josh Benaloh, Matt Blaze, Whitfield Diffie, John Gilmore, Matthew Green, Peter Neumann, Susan Landau, Ronald Rivest, Jeffrey Schiller, Bruce Schneier, Michael Specter, Daniel Weitzner. *Keys Under Doormats: Mandating insecurity by requiring government access to all data and communications* MIT-CSAIL-TR-2015-026. July 6, 2015.
- [2] Mike Burnside, Dave Clarke, T. Mills, A. Maywah, S. Davadas, and Ronald Rivest. *Proxy-Based Security Protocols in Networked Mobile Devices*. SAC'2002.
- [3] Yves Bot. *Opinion of Advocate General to European Court of Justice*. Case C-362/14 "Maximillian Schrems versus Data Protection Commissioner" September 23, 2015.
- [4] Daniel Castro and Alan McQuinn. *Beyond the USA Freedom Act: How U.S. Surveillance Still Subverts U.S. Competitiveness* Information Technology and Innovation Foundation. June 9. 2015.

- [5] China. *Information Technology Product Supplier Declaration of Commitment to Protect User Security Pledge* circulated by Chinese government to companies that desire to do future business in China. 2015.
- [6] Disconnect, Inc. *Complaint of Disconnect, Inc.* European Antitrust Commission. Case COMP/40099. June 2015.
- [7] Anna Funder. *Stasiland: Stories from Behind the Berlin Wall*. Harper. 2011.
- [8] Rian Gallagher. *Revealed: How DOJ Gagged Google over Surveillance of WikiLeaks Volunteer*. The Intercept. June 20, 2015.
- [9] Ryan Gallagher and Glenn Greenwald. *How the NSA plans to infect 'millions' of computers with malware*. *The Intercept*. March 12, 2014.
- [10] John Gilmore and Mike Wiser. *Secrets, Politics and Torture*. PBS Frontline. May 19, 2015.
- [11] Shane Harris. *@War: The Rise of the Military-Internet Complex*. Eamon Dolan/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Boston, MA, 2014.
- [12] Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck. *The Lives of Others*. Wiedemann & Berg, et. al. 2006.
- [13] Carl Hewitt and John Woods assisted by Jane Spurr, Editors. *Inconsistency Robustness*. College Publications. 2015.
- [14] Carl Hewitt. *Actors for CyberThings*. Erlang Keynote. YouTube. March 23, 2015.
- [15] Cullen Hobak. *Terms and Conditions May Apply*. Phase 4 Films. 2013.
- [16] Steve Kroft. *The Data Brokers: Selling your personal information*. 60 Minutes. March 9, 2014.
- [17] Edward Lee. *Swarm Boxes*. SwarmLab UC Berkeley. March 19, 2015.
- [18] Jenna McLaughlin *Edward Snowden Explains Why Apple Should Continue To Fight the Government on Encryption*. The Intercept. July 31, 2015.
- [19] Ellen Nakashima. *With a series of major hacks, China builds a database on Americans*. Washington Post. June 5, 2015.
- [20] Ewen MacAskill. *NSA paid millions to cover Prism compliance costs for tech companies*. The Guardian. August 23, 2013.
- [21] Jens Masuch and Manuel Delgado-Restituto. *Ultra Low Power Transceiver for Wireless Body Area Networks*. Springer. 2013.
- [22] Bill Marczak, et. al.. *China's Great Cannon*. University of Toronto. April 10, 2015.
- [23] Salvador Rodriguez. *NSA 'Equation' Fallout: Experts Say Damage To US Tech Firms Could Top \$180B* International Business Times, February 15, 2015.
- [24] Jeremy Scahill and Josh Begley. *The CIA Campaign to Steal Apple's Secrets*. The Intercept. March 10, 2015.
- [25] Eric Schlosser. *Command and Control: Nuclear Weapons, the Damascus Accident, and the Illusion of Safety*. Penguin Books. 2014.
- [26] Dave That, Vint Cerf, et. al. *Request for the Allowance of Optional Electronic Labeling for Wireless Devices* Letter to US FCC. RM11673. 2015.
- [27] Sam Thielman. *Cybersecurity bill could 'sweep away' internet users' privacy, agency warns*. The Guardian. August 3, 2015.
- [28] Daniel Thomas. *Huawei does not pose risk to UK national security, report finds*. Financial Times. March 31, 2015.
- [29] US National Security Council. *Draft paper on technical options for the encryption debate*. leaked 2015.
- [30] Ariane Wu. *The Secret History of American Surveillance*. Reveal News. October 15, 2015.