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Political Liberty and Justice

CT60A7001 Critical Thinking and
Argumentation in Software Engineering

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Agenda, chapters 7

- Accusation by data
- Targeted killing and signature strikes
- Government censorship
- Chilling effect
- Secrecy creep
- Abuse



Accusation by data



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- The idea of accusing and finding sufficient evidence for some crime if there is enough data
- Anyone could be convicted once the police set their mind to it
- “Fishing expeditions”

Accusation continued; Targeted killing and signature strikes



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- Individual is located by means of electronic or other surveillance
- Unidentified individuals are targeted on the basis of their behavior and personal characteristics
 - age, gender, location, et cetera.
- Half of all kills in Pakistan in 2009 and 2010 were signature strikes
- **No information of how accurate the profiling was!**

Government censorship



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- Restricting freedom of speech and the circulation of ideas
- E.G. China and the protecting 'Fire wall'
 - Blocks majority of China's population from finding any 'threatening' sites
- Many other forms of internet censorship all around the world

Chilling effect



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- Surveillance intimidates the people from freely expressing themselves and discussing about forbidden topics
- Leads to self-censorship and fear as everything said can be dugged from the past and judged in the present
- Form of social control

Secrecy creep



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- Behaviour is altered to own advantage if the methods are public
- The increased levels of secrecy & cloaking of surveillance actions
- Keeping secrets from overseers
- Prosecuting whistleblowers and limiting their freedom of speech

Abuse



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- All surveillance systems are susceptible to abuse
- Examples from politics to private individuals
- Intelligence gathering on innocent for political persecution
- Easy to slip over the line into abuse

Conclusion



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- We should be free to talk and message without any worry about how it would look to the government
- We shouldn't worry how our actions might be interpreted, or how they could be used against us

How can we limit the possibilities for abuse?

Have the 'chilling effects' affected your
behaviour?