UNDER SURVEILLANCE
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Do you agree with the records of events?

...
Monday, 18th May, 08:28

I really wasn't expecting that!

This week had started as usual - a cup of coffee...

...an editorial meeting on the agenda...

The same daily grind...
I got back from the US less than 24 hours ago; the whole thing with immigration was a bigger drag than in Pakistan!!

Anyway, I'll have some great shots to show to Sofia, for their issue on the new Brooklyn.

Geez, how long has it been since I last saw Sofia?

A month?
SOFIA!

FORUM NEWS
Security gaps on
“build-your-own”
revealed by the community
of developers. Security
patches already put forward.

DANIEL!

HOW ARE YOU?

WHEN DID YOU GET BACK?

WHAT IS...

AHA, HAVE YOU SEEN MY NEW WATCH?

YET ANOTHER GEEKY GADGET THAT MY BROTHER WOULD LOVE!!

TELEPHONE, INTERNET,
E-MAILS, BLUETOOTH,
GPS

WITH THAT YOU’LL BE TRACKED DOWN ANYWHERE!

Huh! Time to go. Shall we?
Hi, everybody!

OK, let’s do it! Do you have the photos?

Yup, sure!

Got them all right here...

I had problems again because of my passport.

Your latest trips to Pakistan didn’t go unnoticed.

OK, let’s go and show the editorial team your latest findings...

The series on the mosques in Brooklyn should be a hit!

That, and my wonderful tan!
A FEW HOURS LATER...

Great photos! Here, here are your SD cards. Thank you!

The weather was terrific, the light was brilliant.

You should come next time...

I had to hurry Alex to make him update the latest version of the forum and the next set of concert dates...

Yeah...

Great! And we can also add the photos I’ll be taking this evening!

Shall we have a drink after the Skulton concert tonight?

Great idea! My brother will be there with Marie. You can show off with your new gadget!
IT'S A WRAP!
STILL AS MIGHTY AS EVER...

Hey, look, there's Gabriel and Thor from the forum.

Thor? Is that his name?

Tell me, is the new version online?

No, it's his alias. Nobody in the forum knows his real name.

Sofia put a lot of pressure on me, but it is not done! I didn't have time!
I hope you won’t ask me to upload the photos this evening...

I don’t have them yet. I am uploading my ‘on the spot’ comments, now...

Geez, I can’t believe this!!! Someone has been using my credit card! There are weird debits from my account!

Bravo! And you are a student of Computer Science! Haven’t you ever learned that it is necessary to get onto a secure "HTTPS" connection for online payments?

Yes, but, I was a bit rushed! Damn! I’ve already had some unidentified transactions!

Oh, purchases on a computer hardware site and a 300-dollar withdrawal in New Zealand!

Let me get onto my bank website to block these transactions. And, not a word to Mum and Dad, OK!
The next evening...

Any news of Daniel?

You are the one we should be asking...

Are you two not getting anywhere?

What are you talking about?!

No, no... nothing...

What?!

Oh no, that can’t be true!

Daniel is in a real mess...
He's been arrested!

Gosh! Why?

You won't believe this: for cyberterrorism!!!

You are joking, right?

He seemed to be quite freaked out!

He mentioned something about when he was leaving the States, and his photos of mosques, and of Pakistan, it was all confused!

Do you think he was spotted by Echelon? What are we going to do?

You go off for your classes, and I'll see what I can do...
A FEW HOURS LATER...

Thank you, Sir, for agreeing to see me so quickly.

Oh come on, Sofia, it's always a pleasure to see you!

And, for God's sake, call me Max!

It's been ages since you last came to see me! What's going on?

We need your help!

Who is 'we'?

Daniel...

What's happened to him?
Daniel is being accused of cyberterrorism!

Aha! His I.T. skills might have improved, then?

This is NO time for jokes!

It's unclear. He's at the police station and we need to get him out of there!

So what exactly are they accusing him of?

OK, let me call the police station... We'll see if he accepts me as his lawyer...
Hello, I'd like to speak with the officer in charge of the Auger case please.

I understand. I'll be there in an hour...

Let's go!

Hello! I am Max Doumerc, Daniel Auger's lawyer, and I'm here to see him.

Follow me!
Any news?

Bad luck! He may be in there for a while!!!

No! This is total madness!!!

What could they find?
Photos?

Apparently, at the airport, they scan all digital data. Max is at the police station; we'll get news soon...

Meanwhile...

Hello Daniel! What news?

As funny as ever!!!
Sofia came to see me and she's sure you are innocent. Well, I must say, I tend to agree with her...

I don't understand! They say they have evidence. But of what? I didn't do anything!!

Well, that's exactly it! There is no 'my version'! I went off to the States to work, that's all!

I need to hear your version.

The States

OK, let's take it from there...
I am regularly commissioned by Sofia’s magazine to take pictures for their special issues. I’ve been travelling around a lot lately...

...I had never faced any problems with immigration, especially on the way back, but this time they took me into their interrogation room...

I wasn’t really worried because I know they’ve been kind of sensitive since 9/11...

After a million questions, and having gone through my belongings, they finally let me go...
I can see you've been to Pakistan several times...

Yes, to photograph religious architecture.

Hm... They've got this picture of you with that guy at JFK...

?!?

They have your fingerprints, you have a police record.

Him? He asked me what time it was! That isn't a crime, is it? They can send us the entire video, you will see I am checking my watch...

But...! I was burgled two years ago. The cops got the fingerprints back then!
The US launched an international warrant against me? This is RIDICULOUS!!!

You actually got a few extra days because of the time it took them to contact our authorities...

...They had no problems tracking you down thanks to your RFID chips, your metro pass, your credit card payments...

But I work on the web.

That's my window to the world!

...Not to mention your activity on the web.

Working on political, ethnic and military issues makes you a suspect...
That's total rubbish; and since when does 'suspect' mean 'guilty'?

I have a press card! And what happened to freedom of speech?!

What do they really have against me? Nothing!!

Let's just say that the information they have, doesn't work for you!

What are you exactly trying to say?

...Everything about you as you appear in their files, where you've been, your personal data on the web...
How do they have access to all this?

Via the Web — your blog, forums, social networks...

On professional forums, I have discussions only with professionals!

But they have nothing concrete against me! You think they hacked into my computer? Is all this legal?

You use the same user name for all the forums, and on your blog it’s even under ‘My Profile’.

OK, let me recap...

1. Biometrics: Palmprints, Fingerprints
2. RFID: Transport & Purchases
3. PRO: Religious, Military Themes
4. Interpersonal Relations: Forum, E-mail

I don’t know yet. I could get these listings...
Gosh, SpyDan! What kind of an alias is that?

I've been using it ever since high school. Everybody knows it.

You think that an alias will protect you! You need to be a lot more careful with the info you pass around.

Some of your contacts have a police record, and Echelon didn't miss any of your chats.

Echelon? But I only talk about photos...

And what about Skuliton's political stands.

No?! They are also holding that against me?

Sir, time's up!

I'll come back tomorrow. I'll do my best... I already have a few ideas...
The very same evening...

Sofia, Alex told me about Daniel! How can this be possible?

Max has just called. He had some news...

For the moment they only have a string of suspicions that make him a suspect.

His trips to Pakistan, his coverage on guerrillas, and also his photographs on mosques around the world, and his exchanges on the Net with some dubious characters...
AND THAT'S ENOUGH TO GET HIM ARRESTED? THAT'S CRAZY!

IT SEEMS SO EASY TO BIAS FACTS SO AS TO INCriminate SOMEbody...

CLUNK!

CALM DOWN!

SOMEone HACKED INTO MY SERVER!!!

I HADN'T UPDATED MY SERVER. I NEVER THOUGHT IT WAS THAT IMPORTANT BUT DANIEL'S SITUATION HAS MADE ME QUITE PARANOID. SO, I CHECKED ALL THE VISITS IN THE FORUM, AND I FOUND A FEW WEIRD THINGS!

...ON DANIEL'S PROFILE.

I DIDN'T HAVE A SECURITY LOCK ANYMORE AND A NEW SUBSCRIBER HAS HAD ACCESS TO DANIEL'S PERSONAL DATA.

This is going too far! We have our rights, you know! We must react!
What?

Let's get in touch with organisations, check out the laws, and the case law...

Is there a specific authority in charge of data protection we can go to?

Yes. Access to personal data is subjected to authorization, and there are organisations that struggle to defend our rights.

OK, let me check them out...

I have friends who work in that field and it's a topical issue.

I can't believe it! A guy got fired because his boss had access to his profile on the Net...
This is sheer discrimination!

...and the Web leaves no room for oblivion!

This concerns all of us. We have to fight for our rights. There are so many ways of interpreting a fact...

Obviously, we need to be very careful about what we post on the Web... Personal data protection really isn’t what we think it is!

Did you know that there’s a convention by the Council of Europe on cyber-criminality? And that the USA is part of it?

Not to forget those who pass our personal data around for commercial purposes, without our agreement!!!

And did they finally sign the one on personal data protection?
I did a web search on Daniel, and look at this photo I found online!

Daniel was playing at being an anarchist at university, and that obviously hasn’t helped...

Gosh, these two have been after each other for ever!!!

I have an appointment with Max in the morning. I’m going to bed.
Friday, 22nd May

Yes, OK, I understand...
I’ll call you back...
Thanks a lot.

He’s on the telephone,
but he asked me to show you to his office.

Sofia! Thanks
to my being a member of
the International Association
for the Defense of Private
Liberties, and our contacts
in the States...

...I have good news!

Excellent!

...and according to their software,
Daniel’s profile matches that of a
cyber-terrorist.

They got in touch with
an investigator in the US...

Big Brother’s
watching you!
That makes Daniel a 'Collateral Damage', of the 'safety-first' principle! But, they have admitted that he isn't guilty of anything. And that the bearded guy at the airport works for the UN!

Geez! They mess around with everything!

This happens frequently: CCTV, every coming and going being traced, confusions of all kinds... Daniel should be out soon!

You are incredible, Max! And, that association of yours, is it only for lawyers?

Just for avoiding repetitions! Have you seen his watch? He is even "radio-localised" constantly!

Of course not! The more we are... and the better we'll get! Daniel should become a member!
Tracks left by transportation passes, video recordings, and Daniel's personal data were thoroughly monitored for over 3 years, but only those which substantiated their suspicions were retained...

And yet, Daniel really thought he was above reproach...
There are associations that fight against such abuses. Harmless facts, conversations, photos can be collected and then biased to be used against you...

It is often the geesiest ones who can’t even take the basic precautions to protect their personal data!

I need to check that you are not on the ‘no fly list’.

Nobody is safe.

You should write this story down. It’ll be a total change from photography!

And then you can give some advice to all those naive ones like you, out there...

And why not a comic strip? Shall we change the names?
About ICTs - Information and Communication Technologies

The following information is updated January 1st 2010.

GPS (Global Positionnig System): GPS (geo-locating system) makes it possible to find one's bearings on a map thanks to information broadcast by several satellites about one's position. Combined with a GSM, it makes it possible to track the owner down.

HTTPS (HyperText Transfer Protocole Secure): secure Internet channel for banking and commercial transactions.

CYBERTERRORISM: Any terrorist action committed using ICTs or against computer servers. On top of being generally very imprecise, just like the definition of terrorism, this definition is controversial (offence aimed at by the Convention of the Council of Europe on cyber-criminality).

ECHELON: a global network the purpose of which is to intercept and tap public and private communications (telephone, fax, Internet, e-mails). The information picked up by powerful satellites and computer centres spread all over the planet is processed by the American secret services for military, political, commercial or counter-terrorist purposes.

“CLASSIFY”: consists in collecting and recording data on individuals. The development of means of surveillance, “filing” and tracing, associated with data processing and ICTs, makes it possible to watch and study the behaviour of individuals, and to “profile” them, and undermine individual liberties.

RFID (Radio Frequency IDentification): a tag incorporated into objects, documents (passports), transport passes or credit cards, even under the skin (animals or persons), made of an electronic chip and a radio antenna. It makes it possible to answer remote interrogations made by readers to process data incorporated in these chips and therefore identify and track objects or persons.
PERSONAL DATA: information that makes it possible to identify a person directly or indirectly: first name, family name, e-mail address, telephone number, photo, biometric data, IP address. They are collected by suppliers of goods and services in "real life" or on the Internet, where they can be demanded for transactions, or "provided freely" on blogs or forums. The individual must be informed of his PD being collected and used, of his right to access, to amend, to oppose and to suppress them.

BIOMETRIC PASSPORT: it includes an RFID chip containing civil status data, plus a picture and 2 digitalised fingerprints.
Biometrics: fingerprints, palmprints, DNA, are often considered as a unique, universal identifier, that can be used to prove one's identity and rights (passports, access controls, etc...). Even if thoroughly controlled, centralising biometric files can end up in widespread profiling of individuals.

PNR (Passenger Name Record): an airline passenger file, used by Airlines and travel agencies to provide all the information related to a reservation of a trip and the related services. The United States demand that the European airlines provide this information before the departure of any flight to, from or over the USA, so as to decide whether that person is allowed to get on-board or not. These data are supposed to be used solely to prevent and to fight terrorism and related crime.

NO FLY LIST: black list created by the US government, containing more than 400,000 names of persons representing a threat to the USA, who are not allowed to get on-board an aircraft leaving or going to the USA.

CCTV (closed-circuit television camera: Systems of cameras deployed in public or private areas, to provide surveillance. The collected images can be viewed in real-time or after having been recorded. According to public authorities, they could prevent and reduce delinquency and crime. The opponents criticize its inefficiency and prohibitive cost, as well as the related invasion of privacy and restrictions to the right to travel freely.
Protecting personal data: a necessary reflex

“Thinking you are above reproach” is not enough to stop your personal data from being used against you (by authorities, employers) and/or without your authorization (profiling, marketing).

- Give personal data only when required and only if proportional to the goal set.
- In case of doubt, it is legitimate to ask: “Why?”, “Who is managing this information?”, “What are my rights of access?”
- Always use complex passwords. Use several e-mail addresses and several usernames so as not to expose your personal data and those of your close relations. Use tools to surf the Net anonymously (e.g. TOR).
- On social networks, think carefully about the contents you put online, and set the settings that protect your private life.
- Put off cell phones; deactivate GPS when not in use.
- When paying online, always make sure that URL addresses of Web sites begin with https.

The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union protects privacy and personal data.

Useful addresses & references

- **European Authorities:**
  The **EDPS** (European Data Protection Supervisor): an independent personal data protection authority, controls the activities of European institutions, makes recommendations on European legislative projects.
  http://www.edps.europa.eu/EDPSWEB/edps/Home
  Group composed of national authorities and the EDPS:
  http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/privacy/workinggroup/index_en.htm

- **Data Protection Authority (DPA):**
  In each European country, an independent authority is in charge of controlling the legislation on personal data protection rights, under directive 95/46. Its missions and capabilities are to inform people about their rights and obligations, to issue opinions or authorizations on data processing projects, conveying risks for the liberties and rights of people, to receive complaints, to control, to denounce breaches, and to take action.
  Co-ordinates of the 30 European DPAs:
  http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/privacy/nationalcomm/index_en.htm

- **Advice and Support:**
  **AEDH**, European Association for the defense of Human Rights - http://www.aedh.eu/
LDH, Ligue des droits de l’Homme
http://www.ldh-france.org/

AEDH, European Association for the defense of Human Rights,
http://www.aedh.eu/

EDRi, European Digital Rights
http://www.edri.org/

Pangea, Coordinadora Comunicació per a la Cooperació
http://www.pangea.org

IuRe, Iuridicum Remedium
http://www.iure.org

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