

Re: Something we can all agree on

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.design/2005-12/msg03262.html>

- *From:* zwsdotcom@xxxxxxxxxx
 - *Date:* 19 Dec 2005 12:17:27 -0800
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John Larkin wrote:

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- > There is, as George Will points out, not a slippery slope, but rather
- > a continuously shifting equilibrium between civil liberties and public
- > safety. The more we are seriously threatened, the more we must intrude
- > on things like "privacy." He points out that when threats decline, the
- > boundary has always shifted back.
- >
- > What's wrong with that? Too reasonable to justify shrieking?

Legislation is rarely revoked, and this particular threat will never decline, since the enemy will never be identified let alone defeated. Do you think that if we caught bin Laden today (or expand the scope as far as you like – all his deputies, everyone that's ever spoken to him, whatever), we'd have a National Freedom Day tomorrow and revoke all these power-grab laws?

Anyway, the issue at hand is that there was an established legal process for doing this type of monitoring. Bush ignored the legal process and signed an order saying "I am above the law and unaccountable to anyone, and here is a 45-day pass that makes you above the law and unaccountable also".

The thing that baffles me, however, is how anyone could believe electronic communications to be private unless securely encrypted (and by this I mean an end-to-end secure system including key management, not merely a "secure" code used for the bulk channel). Regardless of how this debacle plays out, you should assume that any electronic communication channel is being monitored by someone.

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- *Follow-Ups:*
 - ◆ ***Re: Something we can all agree on***
 - ◇ *From:* Winfield Hill

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- **References:**

- ◆ **Something we can all agree on**
◇ From: Richard Henry
- ◆ **Re: Something we can all agree on**
◇ From: Dr . Anton T . Squeegee
- ◆ **Re: Something we can all agree on**
◇ From: Richard Henry
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◇ From: John Larkin
- ◆ **Re: Something we can all agree on**
◇ From: Richard the Dreaded Libertarian
- ◆ **Re: Something we can all agree on**
◇ From: John Larkin

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