

Re: Big Brother getting Bigger

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From: Elmo (DoNoSpam_at_NoSpam.org)

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Uncle Al wrote:

> *jitney wrote:*

>

>> *The FDA has just approved the use of an implantable computer chip in*

>> *humans, from the AP wire:*

>> <http://www.lasvegassun.com/sunbin/stories/tech/2004/oct/13/101309941.html>

>>

>> *Expect Big Brother to tell us it will only be used for good*

>> *purposes. -Jitney*

>

>

> *When you see the size of the implantation needle your brain will start*

> *screaming inside your skull. Anybody with a portable RF interrogator*

> *will be able to query your implant from up to about 5 feet away. Once*

> *the data is collected it can be impersonated. Cf: radar jamming and*

> *"anti-kindapping" chips; the second make of the "Thomas Crown Affair"*

> *with bowler-wearing clones at the end.*

>

> *The minimal requirement for a security chip would be on-the-fly deep*

> *encryption. The DES standard is both laughable and backdoored by the*

> *NSA.*

>

> *OTOH, A Mobil gasoline thingie is keyring small and very convenient.*

> *Mobil has gone to secondary verification required for its use, since*

> *anybody with an RF interrogator...*

>

As I understood it, the dingus only contains the ID info which is then used to query the central database where the records exist. So breaking the chip isn't useful unless you also have access to the database. Anyone who has access to the database already has access to your records, they just don't know which ones are yours. OK that's an oversimplification but all the chip would do in this case would be to make it easier for the EMTs (or the Justice Department or....) to match the records with you.

The Mobil dealers are of course wired into their database so breaking the chip code on that has a benefit to someone who isn't connected to it. If I can cook up a device which acts like your Mobil dingus then I get to

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charge things on your account.