

Should surveillance technology be banned? essay



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Surveillance technology such as RFID (radio-frequency identification) should not be used to track people (e. g. human implants and RFID tags on people or products). Do you agree? Support your argument with concrete examples. Famous novelist George Orwell once wrote in his novel Nineteen Eighty-Four, “ There was of course no way of knowing whether you were being watched at any given moment...In the assumption that every sound you made was overheard, and, except in darkness, every movement scrutinized. (George Orwell’s, 1984 - telescreen and the surveillance society) Although the issue on surveillance technology invading human’s privacy has been an ongoing concern, surveillance technology has also brought us lots of benefits and security.

Firstly, it enhanced the security system in many areas. Secondly, it facilitates the tracking of school children and the elderly. Lastly, with the help of surveillance technology, information can be accessed instantly. Hence, surveillance technology should be used to track people. Video Surveillance such as Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) is highly employed in many key installations such as government institutes, military bases, airports and ports to enhance security. It can also be found in schools and hospitals. CCTV is able to provide a 24/7 security manning without too much human resources as real time video images will be sent to the control centre. For instance, schools can use it to track intruders and protect their students from possible dangers, especially in pre-schools, (Security and surveillance, n. d.). Besides that, such surveillance technology can act as a form of deterrent and used for forensics purposes.

Law enforcers are able to collect evidences after an event has occurred, thus increasing the efficiency of crime solving. With the presence of the video surveillance, potential crime can be deterred. The use of such surveillance technology to fight against crime is seen in Malaysia, where Malaysian police has introduced more speed camera on their road so as to deter motorist from speeding, (Electronic enforcement may deter speeding and reduce road accidents n. .). With the increased aging population and the rapid development of technology, the idea of aging at one's home, rather than at the elderly nursing house, is becoming a more popular option. Surveillance and monitoring systems are also considered to be most capable of enabling such plans to occur. This is because it is able to increase the safety and independence of the elderly as a result; the cost and burden for their respective caregivers will be minimized.

Caregivers are able to keep a watchful eye on the elderly via the internet even when they are at work or overseas. Surveillance and monitoring system is also able to alert their caregivers if the elderly at home is facing any trouble, difficulties or maybe even exhibiting risky behaviours. (Kenner A.

M. , 2008) According to the Work, Family and Lifestyle Statistics report, 2009. The percentage of families having both working parents is on a rising trend due to the increase in standard of living. This brings in a new ideology called remote parenting. With the help of the surveillance technology, working parents are able to go to work with a peace of mind as they are able to monitor the situations at home with a single click away, (Remote parenting and DVR surveillance n.

d.). This also allows the parents to monitor their children at home, hence, ensuring that their children are well taken care of by their babysitters. For instance, NBC News story: Nanny Cams reported on cases in the United States where babysitters are caught torturing the babies by the surveillance technology installed at home.

In Singapore, there was an increasing number of people purchasing such gadget to ensure the safety of their children and the elderly, (Tracking device easily made available, 2009). Surveillance technology is also widely used in hospitals where patients are tagged with a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tag. Monahan (2006) monitored in his book, RFID allows the hospital to track where the patients are and to ensure the patients' safety. The tag contains important information of the patient such as the patient's identity, blood group and the kind of drugs the patient is sensitive to. During an emergency, doctors are able to reveal such important information from the tag almost instantly, without delaying the life saving process. During the SARS pandemic period in Singapore, surveillance technology was also used on potential victims to prevent the spread of the disease.

(Influenza Pandemic readiness and response plan, 2009) It is admitted that surveillance technology has invaded human's privacy to a certain extent. This is also mentioned by in George Orwell novel which is published in 1984 . However, is privacy more important than safety and security? Without surveillance technology, many crimes will not be able to be solved as efficiently. How many babies will be tortured without the knowledge of their parents? Hence we cannot neglect the benefit of surveillance technology.

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Therefore, surveillance technology should be used to track people. In conclusion, with so much benefits of surveillance technology, the usage of such technology should be continued. (800 words) References: Buckley, C. (2007, July 9) New York Plans Surveillance Veil for Downtown . Retrieved October 6, 2009 from <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/07/09/nyregion/09ring.html>

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