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[CTRL] PFIR.org : People For Internet Responsibility

Dave Sun, 21 Nov 1999 18:55:22 -0800

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 -Caveat Lector-

Hi Lauren,

Recently recieved and am forwarding to my contact networks your PFIR
founding announcement, appended.

I have ONE burning question which you might be able to throw some light on:

WHY would the U.S. DoD develop darpanet and then put the whole thing in the
public domain?

To me, this dovetails neatly into the question of:
WHY would MAJOR DoD/gov't contractor IBM develop and then "lose control of
the marketplace" for the PC, thus ensuring the current situation in which
practically EVERY business and many homes currently have an information
storage system combined with a communications medium that is connected to
what MUST practically be considered to be an infowar  Trojan horse-
darpanet/arpanet/Internet.

Considered in light of the fundamental truth that IP communications are
easily interceptable by persons with the right equipment and access (such as
the military creators of the Internet, and thus any & all governmentally
"connected" individuals with the right credentials or contacts) ... I am
left with the clear suspicion that in the same way in which covert
operations assume the ends justify the means, that the "ends" in this
situation have been either purposefully fostered by the means, or a
coincidental series of temporally parallel events has "serendipitously"
delivered into the hands of the government's "secrecy" legionaires the means
to spy on a great deal of business and personal communications. Beats hell
out of having to steam open envelopes, eh?

I wonder if you have been monitoring the IETF's discussions on the Raven
list, with regard to the "desireability" of building-in to the internet's
packet data transports any "ease of surveillance" mechanisms "required" by
"law-enforcement."

Also, off-topic... I wonder if you have any information on China Lake naval
weapons research base (& other's) testing of seismic weaponry. It is
interesting to note the incredibly large number of seismic events (over 300
last in the last WEEK !)
( http://www.scecdc.scec.org/recenteqs/Maps/117-35.html ) near China Lake.

Feel free to pass this question on to your Privacy or PFIR list, should you
decide to devote any considerable time or energy in reply- and let me know
if such topics are germane to either of the lists you facilitate.

regards,

Dave Hartley
http://www.Asheville-Computer.com/dave
http://www.Asheville-Computer.com/issues

                 ===== PRIVACY FORUM =====
 From:    [EMAIL PROTECTED] (Lauren Weinstein; PRIVACY Forum Moderator)
 Date:    Tue, 16 Nov 99 12:08 PST
 Subject: Announcing - PFIR: "People For Internet Responsibility"

 Greetings!  I'm extremely pleased to announce a new effort, aimed
 specifically at helping to provide some real balance to a wide range
 of issues affecting the Internet, which are increasingly impacting so
 many aspects of our lives.  I hope that many of the readership will be
 interested in participating in this project!  The PRIVACY Forum will
 of course also continue as always.  Thanks very much.

 --Lauren--
 Lauren Weinstein
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[EMAIL PROTECTED]
Moderator, PRIVACY Forum -- http://www.vortex.com
Co-founder, PFIR: People For Internet Responsibility
   -- http://www.pfir.org

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[ Please feel free to redistribute this announcement as you see fit. ]

         ANNOUNCING
         PFIR: "People For Internet Responsibility"
         http://www.pfir.org
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November 16, 1999
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PFIR is a global, grassroots, ad hoc network of individuals who are
concerned about the current and future operations, development,
management, and regulation of the Internet in responsible manners.
The goal of PFIR is to help provide a resource for individuals around
the world to gain an ability to help impact these crucial Internet
issues, which will affect virtually all aspects of our cultures,
societies, and lives in the 21st century. PFIR is non-partisan, has
no political agenda, and does not engage in lobbying.

PFIR has been founded (in November, 1999) by Lauren Weinstein of
Vortex Technology in Woodland Hills, California and Peter G. Neumann
of SRI International in Menlo Park, California. Both have decades of
continual experience with the Internet and its ancestor ARPANET,
Lauren originally at the UCLA lab which was the ARPANET's first site,
and Peter at the net's second site, located at SRI.

Peter is the chairman of the ACM (Association for Computing Machinery)
Committee on Computers and Public Policy, and the creator and
moderator of the Internet RISKS Forum. Lauren is a member of that
same committee, and he is the creator and moderator of the Internet
PRIVACY Forum.

With the rapid commercialization of the Internet and its World Wide
Web during the 1990's, there are increasing concerns that decisions
regarding these resources are being irresponsibly skewed through the
influence of powerful, vested interests (in commercial, political, and
other categories) whose goals are not necessarily always aligned with
the concerns of individuals and the people at large. Such
incompatibilities have surfaced in areas including domain name policy,
spam, security, encryption, freedom of speech issues, privacy, content
rating and filtering, and a vast array of other areas. New ones are
sure to come!

While corporate, political, and other related entities most certainly
have important roles to play in Internet issues, it is unwise and
unacceptable for their influences to be effectively the only
significant factors affecting the broad scope of Internet policies.

There are numerous examples. While e-commerce can indeed be a
wonderful tool, it is shortsighted in the extreme for some interests
to treat the incredible creation that is the Internet as little more
than a giant mail order catalog, with ".com" associated hype on
seemingly every ad, billboard and commercial. Protection of
copyrights in a global Internet environment, without abusive
monitoring, is a challenge indeed. The Internet can be a fantastic
tool to encourage the flow of ideas, information, and education, but
it can also be used to track users' behaviors and invade individuals'
privacy in manners that George Orwell never imagined in his "1984"
world.

PFIR is a resource for discussion, analysis, and information regarding
Internet issues, aimed at providing a forum for *ordinary people* to
participate in the process of Internet evolution, control, and use,
around the entire world. PFIR is also a focal point for providing
media and government with a resource regarding Internet issues that is
not controlled by entities with existing major vested financial,
political, or other interests. This is accomplished through the PFIR
Web site, the handling of telephone and e-mail queries, and through
digests, discussion groups, reports, broadcast and Internet radio
efforts, and other venues.

For full details about People For Internet Responsibility, including

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    information regarding how you can participate in or keep informed
    about PFIR activities (including the PFIR Digest mailing list), please
    visit the PFIR Web site at:

        http://www.pfir.org

    Individuals, organizations, media, etc. who are interested in more
    information regarding PFIR or these Internet issues
    are invited to contact:

    Phone, Fax, or E-mail:

    Lauren Weinstein
    TEL: +1 (818) 225-2800
    FAX: +1 (818) 225-7203
    [EMAIL PROTECTED]

    Please send any physical mail to:

    PFIR c/o Peter G. Neumann
    Principal Scientist
    Computer Science Lab
    SRI International EL-243
    333 Ravenswood Ave.
    Menlo Park, CA 94025-3493 USA

    Thank you very much.  Be seeing you!
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    Lauren Weinstein
    Peter G. Neumann
    November 16, 1999
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    The Internet PRIVACY Forum is a moderated digest for the discussion
    and analysis of issues relating to the general topic of privacy (both
    personal and collective) in the "information age" of the 1990's and
    beyond.  The moderator will choose submissions for inclusion based on
    their relevance and content.  Submissions will not be routinely
    acknowledged.

    All submissions should be addressed to "[EMAIL PROTECTED]" and must
    have RELEVANT "Subject:" lines; submissions without appropriate and
    relevant "Subject:" lines may be ignored.  Excessive "signatures" on
    submissions are subject to editing.  Subscriptions are via an
    automatic list server system; for subscription information, please
    send a message consisting of the word "help" (quotes not included) in
    the BODY of a message to: "[EMAIL PROTECTED]".  Mailing list
    problems should be reported to "[EMAIL PROTECTED]".

    All messages included in this digest represent the views of their
    individual authors and all messages submitted must be appropriate to
    be distributable without limitations.

    The PRIVACY Forum archive, including all issues of the digest and all
    related materials, is available via anonymous FTP from site
    "ftp.vortex.com", in the "/privacy" directory.  Use the FTP login
    "ftp" or "anonymous", and enter your e-mail address as the password.
    The typical "README" and "INDEX" files are available to guide you
    through the files available for FTP access.  PRIVACY Forum materials
    may also be obtained automatically via e-mail through the list server
    system.  Please follow the instructions above for getting the list
    server  "help" information, which includes details regarding the
    "index" and "get" list server commands, which are used to access the
    PRIVACY Forum archive.

    All PRIVACY Forum materials are available through the Internet Gopher
    system via a gopher server on site "gopher.vortex.com".  Access to
    PRIVACY Forum materials is also available through the Internet World
    Wide Web (WWW) via the Vortex Technology WWW server at the URL:
    "http://www.vortex.com"; full keyword searching of all PRIVACY Forum
    files is available via WWW access.

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screeds are not allowed. Substance�not soapboxing!  These are sordid matters
and 'conspiracy theory', with its many half-truths, misdirections and outright
frauds is used politically  by different groups with major and minor effects
spread throughout the spectrum of time and thought. That being said, CTRL
gives no endorsement to the validity of posts, and always suggests to readers;
be wary of what you read. CTRL gives no credeence to Holocaust denial and
nazi's need not apply.

Let us please be civil and as always, Caveat Lector.
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