



UK Investigatory Powers Bill: NSA Whistleblower Tells British Parliament « Snooper's Charter » Is Deadly

'Britain should not go further down this road and risk making the same mistakes as my country did, or they will end up perpetuating loss of life.'

Par [Nadia Prupis](#)

Mondialisation.ca, 13 janvier 2016

[Common Dreams](#) 6 janvier 2016

Région : [Europe](#)

Thème: [Intelligence](#), [Law and Justice](#),
[Police State & Civil Rights](#)

New surveillance laws set to be approved in the UK are « totalitarian » and could cost British lives, security whistleblower William Binney [Pictured left, Photo: [Jacob Applebaum/flickr/cc](#)] [told members of Parliament](#) (MPs) on Wednesday.

Lawmakers are debating the controversial Investigatory Powers Bill, introduced by Home Secretary Theresa May and dubbed the « [Snooper's Charter](#) » by opponents. It is expected to pass later this year and [would, among other things](#), require telecommunications companies to store records of websites visited by every UK citizen for 12 months for access by law enforcement agencies.

That kind of sweeping, invasive surveillance strategy « costs lives, and has cost lives in Britain because it inundates analysts with too much data, » said Binney, who worked for the National Security Agency (NSA) for 30 years before [exposing the ineffectiveness](#) of its various intelligence programs.

Binney also criticized a UK government surveillance program known as Black Hole, launched in 2008 and made public in 2013 by NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden, which lists everyone in the world who has ever visited a website.

« It is 99 percent useless, » Binney said. « Who wants to know everyone who has ever looked at Google or the BBC? We have known for decades that that swamps analysts. »

In fact, Binney charged, those kinds of expansive measures prevented intelligence agents from uncovering the September 11 plot, as the deluge of information strained resources within the NSA and impeded its ability to investigate leads.

« Sixteen months before the attacks on America, our organization [Signit Automation Research Center, or SARC] was running a new method of finding terrorist networks that worked on focusing on 'smart collection'. Their plan was rejected in favor of a... plan to collect all communications from everyone, » Binney told a committee of MPs scrutinizing the draft bill. « The US large-scale surveillance plan failed. It had to be abandoned in 2005. Checks afterwards showed that communications from the terrorists had been collected, but not looked at in time. »

« Britain should not go further down this road and risk making the same mistakes as my country did, or they will end up perpetuating loss of life, » he said.

Rather than vacuuming up bulk data and sifting through it for valuable intel, Binney urged Parliament to focus on a more targeted collection technique, which he said would streamline the process and make it more effective at uncovering and thwarting plans for attacks. It would also safeguard against violating private communications of legally protected groups like lawyers, journalists, and MPs.

« This approach reduces the burden on analysts required to review extremely large quantities of irrelevant material with consequent improvement to operational effectiveness, » he said. « At the same time, it reduces the privacy burden affecting the large number of innocent and suspicion-free persons whose communications are accessible to our systems. »

In [an interview](#) with *Wired UK* ahead of his testimony, Binney explained, « Fundamentally, bulk acquisition is a major impediment to success by analysts and law enforcement. »

« Retroactively analyzing people, anybody you want, any time you want, that's certainly possible with bulk acquisition of data but that's certainly not what democracies are built on. That's what totalitarian states are built on, » he continued. « It doesn't give people security, it makes them more vulnerable; we're more vulnerable than we've ever been because of this. »

La source originale de cet article est [Common Dreams](#)

Copyright © [Nadia Prupis](#), [Common Dreams](#), 2016

Articles Par : [Nadia Prupis](#)

Avis de non-responsabilité : Les opinions exprimées dans cet article n'engagent que le ou les auteurs. Le Centre de recherche sur la mondialisation se dégage de toute responsabilité concernant le contenu de cet article et ne sera pas tenu responsable pour des erreurs ou informations incorrectes ou inexactes.

Le Centre de recherche sur la mondialisation (CRM) accorde la permission de reproduire la version intégrale ou des extraits d'articles du site [Mondialisation.ca](#) sur des sites de médias alternatifs. La source de l'article, l'adresse url ainsi qu'un hyperlien vers l'article original du CRM doivent être indiqués. Une note de droit d'auteur (copyright) doit également être indiquée.

Pour publier des articles de [Mondialisation.ca](#) en format papier ou autre, y compris les sites Internet commerciaux, contactez: media@globalresearch.ca

[Mondialisation.ca](#) contient du matériel protégé par le droit d'auteur, dont le détenteur n'a pas toujours autorisé l'utilisation. Nous mettons ce matériel à la disposition de nos lecteurs en vertu du principe "d'utilisation équitable", dans le but d'améliorer la compréhension des enjeux politiques, économiques et sociaux. Tout le matériel mis en ligne sur ce site est à but non lucratif. Il est mis à la disposition de tous ceux qui s'y intéressent dans le but de faire de la recherche ainsi qu'à des fins éducatives. Si vous désirez utiliser du matériel protégé par le droit d'auteur pour des raisons autres que "l'utilisation équitable", vous devez demander la permission au détenteur du droit d'auteur.

Contact média: media@globalresearch.ca