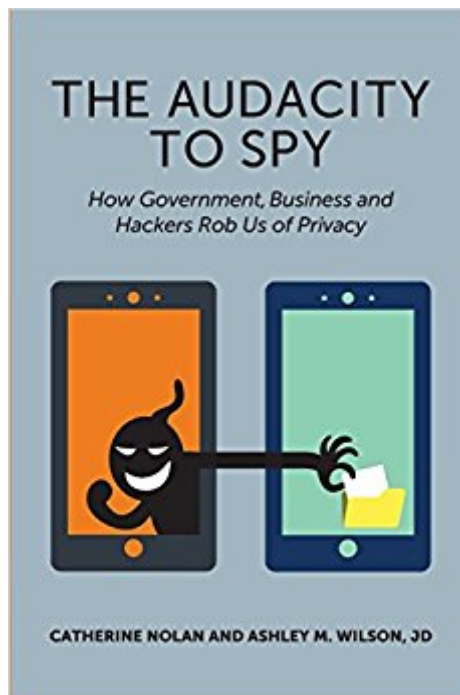




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# The Audacity To Spy: How Government, Business, And Hackers Rob Us Of Privacy



## Synopsis

Ever get the feeling you're being watched? The thieves that steal identities are using cutting-edge, high-tech tools that can take one fact from a social media site, another from an online travel survey, a third from a purchase made via the internet and even access highly confidential medical records. Little by little they piece together your buying habits, your religious and school affiliations, the names of your family and pets, your political views, your driving habits, the places you have vacationed, and much, much more. This is not science fiction and this is not the future, this is what is happening to each and every one of us now - today. And although the vast majority of adults say they are concerned about providing personal information online, nearly 1/3 say they have never used a privacy setting on their computer, never inquired about the charities to whom they donate their money, never worried about someone accessing their medical information and never thought twice about giving a financial institution their social security number over the internet. *The Audacity to Spy*, written by an attorney with an interest in privacy laws and legislation and her grandmother who is an experienced Information Analyst, reveals the ways in which your identity and personal data have been stolen by various sources. Yes, you should be concerned about the NSA and other government agencies having your phone logs and emails; but you should worry more about the insidious data brokers that are collecting information about you every time you log on to your laptop, use your cell phone, access an app, or use your GPS. Companies are collecting a variety of data about you, combining it with location information, and using it to both personalize their own services and to sell to other advertisers for behavioral marketing. Law enforcement agencies are tracking your car and insurance companies are installing devices to monitor your driving. Clerks are making copies of your credit cards. And if that wasn't enough, the FBI has reported that hackers have been discovered embedding malicious software in two million computers, opening a virtual door for criminals to rifle through users' valuable personal and financial information. More than warning you about the ways your data can be stolen, at the end of each chapter are suggestions for limiting the amount of personal data that is available to be seized and divulged. Can you completely cut off the flow of information about yourself? The answer is no, not completely - there is already too much data out there and increasingly sophisticated ways to obtain bits and pieces. But knowing how it is collected, and by whom, gives you the power to control sensitive information and determine how much of your life you wish to expose to those more than willing to exploit it.

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## Customer Reviews

The Audacity to Spy, written by an attorney with an interest in privacy laws and legislation and her grandmother who is an experienced Information Analyst, reveals the ways in which your identity and personal data have been stolen by various sources. Yes, you should be concerned about the NSA and other government agencies having your phone logs and emails; but you should worry more about the insidious data brokers that are collecting information about you every time you log on to your laptop, use your cell phone, access an app, or use your GPS. Companies are collecting a variety of data about you, combining it with location information, and using it to both personalize their own services and to sell to other advertisers for behavioral marketing. Law enforcement agencies are tracking your car and insurance companies are installing devices to monitor your driving. Clerks are making copies of your credit cards. And if that wasn't enough, the FBI has reported that hackers have been discovered embedding malicious software in two million computers, opening a virtual door for criminals to rifle through users' valuable personal and financial information. More than warning you about the ways your data can be stolen, at the end of each chapter are suggestions for limiting the amount of personal data that is available to be seized and divulged. Can you completely cut off the flow of information about yourself? The answer is no, not completely - there is already too much data out there and increasingly sophisticated ways to obtain bits and pieces. But knowing how it is collected, and by whom, gives you the power to control sensitive information and determine how much of your life you wish to expose to those more than willing to exploit it.

Ashley M. Wilson, JD, is an Attorney at Law practicing in Illinois and Wisconsin. She is a graduate of the University of Illinois and received her law degree at Marquette University. As an attorney she became interested in the growing threat to privacy and the lack of legal protection afforded to individuals by the government and our court system. Catherine Nolan has an MBA in Business Administration and 25 years' experience as an Information Analyst. When she became a victim of identity fraud through the hacking of her credit card information, she began extensive investigation into credit card and identity theft. Her research led to this book which describes the many ways personal information is being compromised and how the average person can protect themselves and their digital assets.

An excellent overview of the government and business spying that is taking place. Well researched and well written. It is easy to read and understand and uses little jargon. Even though the spying is a serious problem, the authors are not alarmists. They present the evidence and inform as to the danger but in a way that encourages resistance and pushback rather than accepting a paralyzing fear. Furthermore, there are useful recommendations for protection from some of the insidious intrusions on our private lives and communications. It is clear, however, that it is going to be a very difficult task to get our privacy back unless Americans can take their country back. Strongly recommended. It is an especially important book to give to young people who seem to be unaware or uncaring of the dangers posed by uncontrolled spying.

Before reading this book, I had been vaguely aware that data is being collected by various entities. Frequent shopper cards do not exist for the good of the consumer! I knew that tollways employ cameras to catch scofflaws. And in the back of my mind I knew that for every convenience brought to us by the internet and credit cards, there was a downside in the loss of utmost privacy as we go about our daily lives. What this book did for me was connect the dots ... point out how all that data can be tied together for exploitation by everyone from politicians to consumer packaged goods companies. The biggest shock to me was the implication of medical identity theft ... having a condition in your medical history that some fraudulent practitioner got reimbursed for that is now wrongfully part of your medical makeup, possibly leading to misinformed treatment options down the road that could impact your very life. I found the tips laid out at the end of each chapter to be common sense. Could I have come up with them independently? Probably. But this easy-to-read book does the work for you. This book should be required reading for everyone living outside of a cave in the 21st century.

This book is outstanding. It is the second book that I have read dealing with hackers, business bundlers, and privacy. Some of the issues it dealt with were both enlightening and deeply disturbing. The book not only identifies problem areas but offers suggestions for modifying or preventing some of the damage to which we might be subjected. A taste of some of these areas of concern are as follows: why it is better to use credit cards than debit cards; monitors that are placed on cars by insurance companies; paying for credit reports when such reports are free; defensive measures that can be initiated to prevent use of stolen credit cards; preventing access to passwords and social security numbers; identifying charities that spend a large percentage of donations for administration; measures one can take to determine whether solicitations are legitimate; problems with charities sharing personal information; the importance of establishing procedures for access to online accounts in case of death; etc. This book contains so much valuable information that it has forced me to examine both my financial and personal behavior. Catherine Nolan and Ashley Wilson should be congratulated for writing a valuable and very readable book.

"The Audacity to Spy" is a new and informative book by two authors, one is a very experienced professional in data management and the other is a practicing attorney. Combining their skills and fields of experience, they take the reader on a journey through the various ways that business, government, organizations of every kind and the nefarious hacker community can rob a person of identity and privacy. Starting with the foundation of asking the question "what is privacy?" the authors examine technologies, business practices, scams, myths and issues across the realm of information security. Each chapter ends with tips for improving personal information security and data privacy, and the recommendations are based on the authors' knowledge of data management and law. The authors offer the reader simple strategies for smart use of available technologies and show how common sense and some planning can often thwart malicious behavior or wrongful use of an individual's personal data. "The Audacity to Spy" is a timely book, one well worth reading, retaining and recommending to anyone who is interested in understanding and improving their information security and data privacy.

An excellent and invaluable book which consolidates many of the ways we are all at risk for being 'spied' upon. From simple identity theft to medical information theft to electronic data recorders in your vehicle, we are all vulnerable. The authors describe in detail many of these spying efforts, legal and illegal, and what can be done to best protect ourselves from being scammed or unknowingly

spied upon. More than warning about the myriad ways your data can be obtained , each chapter contains "what can you do" paragraphs to control the amount of personal data available.. The final chapter lists 15 real life ways to protect yourself and your personal data from theft and possible misuse. A book with extremely important information for everyone concerned about personal data safety.

This is an interesting book and an easy read. Before reading the book, I was generally aware of government and business data collection efforts. However, after reading the book I realize there is more going on than I had realized. For example, I've been creeped out when I see insurance ads where they want to monitor my vehicle. But I didn't realize how widespread license scanning is. Also as vehicles become smarter there's all kinds of opportunities for collecting further data. Personally, I find all this data collection offensive and I believe most citizens would think likewise if they realized the extent. So the book is interesting. It's a contribution to society in raising awareness. And it has items on which readers can act to improve their own privacy. I'm glad that I read the book and I think others could benefit from it.

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