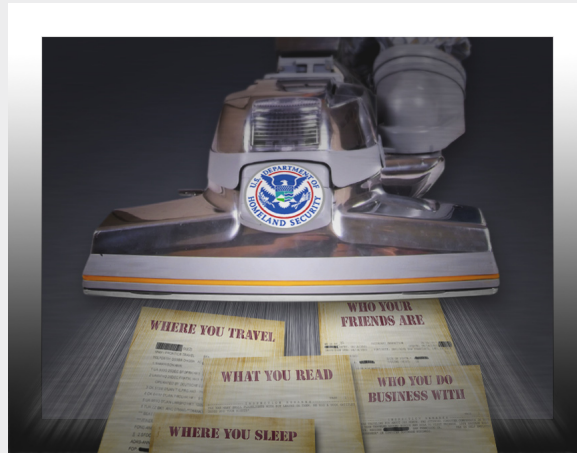


Homeland Security's Data Vacuum Cleaner In Action



An Investigation by the Identity Project

the
identity
project



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The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has quietly perfected and begun to implement their scheme that will require Americans to seek and get permission from DHS in order to travel both domestically and abroad.

The results of an investigation by the Identity Project show that DHS is actively collecting information on what Americans read, with whom they associate, and the ethnicity of individual American travelers. DHS is also actively acquiring the travel records of Americans that document non-US travel, e.g. intra-European flights.

Almost one hundred pages of travel records were turned over by DHS to the Identity Project in response to Privacy Act requests. These documents – many heavily redacted – make clear that DHS is not being honest and forthright with the American public.

I. ATIS, APIS, Secure Flight: Different Bottles, Same Water

A. The Bottles

For years, DHS ran a secret travel surveillance program called the Automated Targeting System. This data mining program came to light earlier this year when DHS announced plans to openly monitor the international comings and goings of Americans with a legal version of the scheme called the Automated Passenger Information System, or APIS.

APIS, which is now fully operational, places requirements for government-issued travel credentials on all Americans as well as individualized, explicit, prior, per-flight permission to travel (“clearance”) by DHS on every American citizen wishing to leave or enter the United States. In conducting APIS, DHS pulls in huge amounts of data on every passenger.

Secure Flight will put these same requirements on all Americans for domestic travel. Under Secure Flight, an American wishing to fly within the United States will need permission from DHS for each segment of his travels.

B. The Water

The main source of information DHS uses to determine whether to grant an American permission to travel by air comes from their flight reservation, or PNR. The PNR contains a wealth of deeply personal information, as this report will soon show. For DHS to argue that the APIS foreign travel surveillance program and the Secure Flight domestic travel surveillance program are separate and distinct is a fiction, if not an outright falsehood. They are but two bottling plants drawing water from the same spring.

4. The individual travel reservation (PNR) data information is pulled in its entirety by DHS rather than filtered and then pushed by the airlines. This means that a tremendous amount of highly personal information is vacuumed-up by the US government, analyzed, and stored. While DHS' Transportation Security Administration (TSA) states that flight records will be destroyed within days of the completion of travel, they say they will store the travel details of 'suspected terrorists' for decades. TSA defines all Americans as 'suspects', and will therefore never destroy any travel data collected.

The sensitive information contained in an individual PNR vacuumed-up by DHS includes the telephone numbers of both the American and the number given to the airlines while abroad for contact if the flight is cancelled (here a family member living in Tokyo):

```
#9
NW-3ALLH7
1,1HARRISON/JAMES.P.MR*ADT
2 NW 28W 19SEP FR NRTSFO HK1 320P 845A/O E
P- 1,WPA ██████████ -H
2.SMF ██████████
-----
```

...the record locators of others with whom they travel:

```
M-
5.SPLIT RMK/21AUG/0427Z/S9GS/WPEIOMR2IX
```

...who their travel agent is:

```
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
001 YY TEL ██████████ / ██████████ TRAVEL
002 KL CTCP LAX800 544 3644 PHONE
003 KL CTCP LAX ██████████ FAX
001 HDQ1SLKNWZ/UR40, ██████████ /LAX/AA/T/US/USD
RMKS
001 .QQ/KL.
003 .QQ/KL. ATTN AGENT FROM KLM PLS PROVIDE TICKET NUMBERS
005 *CRCKL*SFOTXL/T/7AUG-NSC OK
006 *CRCKL*TXLAMS/T/13AUG-OK
007 *CRCKL*AHSSEO/T/15AUG-OK
TKT
```

...and the initials of the individual agent:

```
---HISTORY---
RCVD-S/DHGSH
OSB AG SH 0007Z/05DEC
```

Even the different possibilities the travel agent explored before choosing the best route for the American traveler are in the PNR and are stored by DHS:

```
HISTORY
AN.1GILMORE/JOHN
AS.#NW 8606 T 7AUG SFOAMS DK/HK1 1510 1025 KL 606 58
AS.#NW 8271 T 8AUG AMSTXL DK/HK1 1530 1650 KL 1829 5
AS.#NW 8376 T 13AUG TXLAMS DK/HK1 0605 0730 KL 1818 6
AS.#NW 8605 T 13AUG AMSSFO DK/HK1 1110 1305 KL 605 6S
RCVD-HDQ1SLKNWKZ/UR40/[REDACTED]/LAX/AA/T/US/USD
HDQ RM NW 2339Z/ 3AUG TTY
CRCKL SR TT 2340Z/ 3AUG EOT
XS.#NW 8376 T 13AUG TXLAMS HK1 0605 0730 KL 1818
XS.#NW 8605 T 13AUG AMSSFO HK1 1110 1305 KL 605 S
AS.#NW 8605 T 15AUG AMSSFO DK/HK1 1110 1305 KL 605 S
RCVD-HDQ1SLKNWKZ/UR40/[REDACTED]/LAX/AA/T/US/USD
HDQ RM NW 0004Z/ 4AUG TTY
AS. KL 1824 T 13AUG TXLAMS DK/HK1 1215 1340 M
RCVD-HDQ1SLKNWKZ/UR40/[REDACTED]/LAX/AA/T/US/USD
HDQ RM 1S 0004Z/ 4AUG TTY
RCVD-MUCLAY3ZZU3
ATL RM 1P 0037Z/ 4AUG ETKT UPDATE
RCVD-HDQ1SLKNWKZ/UR40/[REDACTED]/LAX/AA/T/US/USD
HDQ RM 1S 0038Z/ 4AUG TTY
RCVD-HDQ1SLKNWKZ/UR40/[REDACTED]/LAX/AA/T/US/USD
HDQ RM NW 0038Z/ 4AUG TTY
CRCKL RC D1 0512Z/ 5AUG EOT
```

DHS also collects and stores flight details on travel having nothing to do with US international travel. In this example, an American traveled from Berlin to Prague and then onward to London:

```
(b)(2)
1P4V - FRONTIER TRAVEL SEA
TCL7G8/SH QSBSB DHGSH AG [REDACTED] 04DEC
1.1HARRISON/ANN
1 UA 900Q 25DEC SFOFRA HK1 213P 1015A* MO/TU E 4
2 UA8974Q 26DEC FRATXL HK1 1125A 1230P * TU E 4
OPERATED BY DEUTSCHE LUFTHANSA AG
3 OK 519M 01JAN TXLPRG HK1 710P 810P * MO E
4 OK 648M 01JAN PRGLHR HK1 910P 1000P * MO E
5 UA 955Q 07JAN LHRSFO HK1 1005A 118P * SU E
6 TUR ZZ BK1 ANC 07MAR>**THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS**
*** SEAT DATA EXISTS *** J9D;
*** ITINERARY REMARKS EXIST *** JRM;
FONE-ANCA/907 562-2213 ALASKA TRAVEL SOURCE ARC [REDACTED]
)} 2 SFOC:[REDACTED]
ADRS-ANN HARRISON*PO BOX [REDACTED]
FOP:[REDACTED]
TKTG-T/QSB 06DEC0110Z SH AG **ELECTRONIC DATA EXISTS** JHTE;
*** TIN REMARKS EXIST *** J*T;
*** LINEAR FARE DATA EXISTS *** J*LF;
1/ATFQ-UT/BS1*1P4V*2*1P4V*5*1P4V
FQ-USD 816.00/USD 29.00US/USD 252.56XT/USD 1097.56 - 5DEC QKXAN
E.QKXANE.QLWANGE
```

III. Conclusions.

By keeping tabs on what individual citizens read and with whom they associate, the Department of Homeland Security is collecting data on the free exercise of 1st Amendment activities in direct violation of the Privacy Act 1974. The Department of Homeland Security is violating the fundamental right to travel, a right elemental to the free exercise of so many other rights, by requiring American citizens to get permission from DHS in order to leave or enter the United States, or to travel by air within the United States.

The documents obtained by the Identity Project most likely are but the tip of the iceberg when analyzing the degree of invasiveness perpetrated by DHS on an unsuspecting American public.

Congressional action is urgently needed to investigate and defund all DHS surveillance programs that create this creation of records on “suspected terrorists” – meaning you – that violate the inalienable right of all Americans to travel freely, without governmental interference.