



1984 in the 21st Century

by George Lunt

Every year more cameras pop up on our city streets. The newer cameras are smaller and more efficient. Progress is being made in other, less visible but extremely powerful, technologies as well. These include GPS (Global Positioning System), RFID (Radio Frequency Identification), Wi-Fi (Wireless

Fidelity) and WiMAX (Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access). These technologies are forming a base that someday could be used to watch and control the majority of the world's populace.

Traffic Surveillance Cameras

There are cameras for watching traffic and reporting congestion. Other cameras take pictures of license plates of people who run a red light. New technology is being developed to catch speeders and to prevent accidents by sensing road conditions.

Although red light cameras catch a lot of violators, such cameras are known to make mistakes. Much effort is needed to get officials to admit to such mistakes. The same will hold true for those caught speeding by future technological speed traps.

Citizen Surveillance Cameras

There's police cameras that watch public streets for any occurrence of crime. Cities keep installing more and more in troubled areas. These cameras placed on street corners in high crime areas, might deter criminal activity for a while. Unless all criminals are completely stupid, they just move their activity several blocks away where the camera can't see them. More and more cameras would be needed to keep up with the criminal element.

Many corporations have their own security cameras. Whenever a bank gets robbed, a security camera photo of the robber is usually displayed on the six o'clock news. Child abductions have been caught by department store security cameras.

Private technology cameras designed to catch thieves and other criminals can also be used to watch the company's employees as well. Management is always tracking and evaluating their employees to boost their company's efficiency. Cameras can become useful tools for such efforts. Management then can claim that an employee is working too slow or taking too many breaks when the time comes to evaluate the employee for an upcoming raise in salary.

Schools are no strangers to the camera craze. First it was the hallways to watch for unruly behavior, next it's the classroom to help prevent stealing and vandalism.

In schools students are treated as customers. The number of students attending a school determines the amount of grant money a public school gets or the amount of profit a private school makes. The main trend of schools is to make the students (customers) happy using techniques that combine education with entertainment. Cameras in classrooms can be used to make sure that students aren't bored with their instruction. Since many such cameras still lack sound, the tracking of teachers is limited. As technology improves sound can be cheaply added. Then the student's words as well as actions will be fully scrutinized. Teachers will have to make sure that their lessons live up to the prime directive: "Customer Satisfaction."

GPS tracking of Police

You would think that the police would be immune from surveillance. Being tested is a program to give patrol officers cell phones with built in GPS circuitry so their exact location can be tracked while they're on duty. The excuse for this is to get quicker response in the event the officer is in danger.

Tracking the position of police officers can lead to all kinds of problems. When evaluating the officer, reasons such as taking too long for lunch or dropping off laundry to the cleaners can be brought up by management. Although this system has the potential to detect gross negligence, it will, more than likely, only detect some minor rule infractions that have very little significance on the officer's true performance.

RFID and Wi-Fi

RFID technology is now beginning to merge with Wi-Fi. A hospital in Mexico has created a system that uses RFID patient tags and a wireless computer system to create a truly paperless medical facility. The RFID tag on the patient communicates wirelessly with a database containing his or her medical records. This type of hospital eliminates a lot of human error, making it more efficient than other similar health care facilities.

From the standpoint of government, RFID merged with Wi-Fi forms an extremely powerful technology (WiMAX can be used to extend the distances covered by Wi-Fi alone.) With proper implementation, this type of system can track every individual on the planet. In the hospital the RFID tag is an external wristband, but when the government tracks its citizens it would eventually want the tag implanted under the skin so that it couldn't be lost or discarded.

National Id Cards

National id cards are being implemented in Britain and soon will be in the United States. These cards have embedded RFID chips. Although, initially, they would have limited features, as the technology improves they would be upgraded. Soon they would have the potential to track an individual's every move. And even that might not be enough for the ruling corporate aliens. In time, everyone would be forced to have RFID chips implanted. This type of internal id card would be hard to alter. It would guarantee that all the activity being tracked is really coming from the intended person and not an impostor.

Health Hazards of Surveillance

When people feel that they're being watched they become frustrated and their health suffers. Very often the media overemphasizes the dangers of second hand smoke, but practically never tells us about the health hazards of being watched by our employers. Many of today's ailments are probably fueled by everyone's frustration. People not only are being watched but they're being evaluated with questionnaires and their performance is being recorded by supervisors into efficiency tracking databases.

The long term effects of radio frequency radiation are still unknown. The more radio frequency surveillance devices we have installed around us, the greater the chances of developing future health problems from them.

Think how much more frustrated we'll all be when the government begins to seriously track its citizens. People live long healthy lives when their lives have meaning. How demoralizing it will be when our country becomes our prison.

Conclusion

All this tracking technology is becoming acceptable. The media is always quick to point out its benefits. A camera here, GPS device there, and the world is becoming acclimatized for the coming of "Big Brother."

The now fairly benign system of cameras and other tracking devices, when taken over by the corporate alien ruling class, would form an unstoppable base of control. People just don't believe that the governments they trust would actually turn into such dictatorships. Take a good look at your government. Many major decisions governments make are related to greed and power but not to your welfare.

The conventional media tries to instill the idea that your government cares about you and your freedom. Think about it. During wartime, no matter what side of the conflict you're on, your side is always fighting for freedom while the enemy is always doing the oppressing. When has any government ever admitted that a war that they started was a mistake?

One reason why past dictators were not able to achieve ultimate domination was because they lacked the technology. The corporate aliens of today are allowing powerful new technologies to sneak into our cities and towns. They are waiting for just the right time to turn these technologies to their advantage against us. And when they do, the average individual will have no recourse but to live in a 1984 type Orwellian society.

References

[When RFID merges with Wi-Fi](#)

[Chicago police may be tracked by GPS](#)

[National ID cards on the way?](#)

[School district installs cameras in every class, hall.](#)

George Lunt is someone who feels the world is getting too corporate. His writings relate the individual's struggle with big government and big corporations. His website is <http://www.corporate-aliens.com>.

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