

The benefits and dangers of encryption

Matt A. Mayer January 20, 2016 3:30 pm

Read the related report: <u>National commission on terrorists' use of technology is needed</u> (http://www.aei.org/publication/national-commission-on-terrorists-use-of-technology-is-needed/)

The benefits and dangers of encryption







HEALTH RECORDS Under federal law encryption is used to protect personal health records. FINANCES Encryption allows you to use your smartphone to bank and shop without fear of someone stealing your account information. COMMUNICATIONS Encryption also ensures that your private communications stay private.



Some in Washington want to mandate that technology companies insert "back doors" into software making your smartphone more vulnerable.



Doing so will make it easier for hackers, cyber criminals, and rogue regimes to steal **YOUR** data

How data encryption helps terrorists



analyst reviews unencrypted online activities, including social media, to detect potential terrorist threats. INDIVIDUAL IS FLAGGED based on the specificity and intensity of their online activities and the suspect's criminal history and/or links to suspicious individuals.

SUPERVISOR DECIDES whether to seek judicial trapproval to gather more trainformation from in technology company the suspect.

JUDGE ORDERS technology company to provide more tinformation about the suspect.

SUSPECT SHIFTS to using encrypted technology to evade tracking as their planning becomes more specific or they become suspicious that they are being monitored.

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Encryption

The investigation hits a wall. The company cannot comply with the court order since they CAN'T DECRYPT THEIR OWN DATA.

To reconcile the benefits and dangers of encryption, Congress should establish a national commission.

For more information, see Matt Mayer, "National Commission on Terrorists' Use of Technology Is Needed," January 2016, www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/National-commission-on-terrorists-use-of-technology-is-needed.pdf.



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This article was found online at:

http://www.aei.org/multimedia/how-data-encryption-helps-terrorists/