Domestic Surveillance

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# Introduction

"Big brother is watching you." (Orwell, 1949). This quote by George Orwell can be used as a symbolic meaning to portray domestic surveillance by the government, the government being Big Brother. The emergence of domestic surveillance by the government there has been ethical issues arise as well. Even though it may seem the government is infringing on one's right to privacy, surveillance is needed to keep this nation safe, as long as government does not overreach their boundaries.

## Definition and Orgin1

First we need to know the definition and origin of domestic surveillance in order to gain a better understanding of our topic. According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary domestic is defined as "relating to or made it your own country", surveillance is defined as "the act of carefully watching someone or something especially in order to prevent or detect a crime." (Merriam-Webster dictionary, 2015). Therefore, one can say that domestic surveillance is carefully watching someone or everyone from our country. According to Macnish, first significant reference to surveillance ethics in the modern period is Jeremy Bentham’s idea of Panopticon. "The Panopticon was to be a prison compromising circular building with the cells adjacent to the outside walls. In the Center was a tower which the prison's supervisor would live and monitor the inmates." (Macnish, Surveillance Ethics, n.d.) It was believed that this would cause the inmates to become self-disciplined. George Orwell’s book, 1984, was an extension to "the Panopticon to encompass the whole of society, or at least the middle classes." (Orwell, 2004 as cited by Macnish, Surveillance Ethics, n.d.)

Ethical issues. Now poses the question of domestic surveillance being ethical or unethical. Macnish states that "surveillance is itself an ethically neutral concept." (Macnish, Surveillance Ethics, n.d.) The way surveillance is unethical as if there was no Justified cause to do the surveillance. One of the major ethical issues that has arrived with the emergence of domestic surveillance is the right to privacy. The National Security Agency (NSA) rejects the idea of surveillance being an infringement on the right to privacy. The NSA Claims to only be protecting the nation using.

Breaches of Ethical behavior. In this section I will explain the breaches of ethical behavior and use examples from resources.

Applying the theories and perspectives. Here I will go through and apply the 2 theories of deontology and utilitarianism the perspective of ethical relativism.

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