

Ethics in an Age of Surveillance

Personal Information and
Virtual Identities

Adam Henschke



People increasingly live online, sharing publicly what might have once seemed private, but at the same time are enraged by extremes of government surveillance and the corresponding invasion into our private lives. In this enlightening work, Adam Henschke re-examines privacy and property in the age of surveillance in order to understand not only the importance of these social conventions, but also their moral relevance. By analyzing identity and information and presenting a case for a relation between the two, he explains the moral importance of virtual identities and offers an ethically robust solution to design surveillance technologies. This book should be read by anyone interested in surveillance technology, new information technology more generally and social concepts like privacy and property.

Adam Henschke is an applied ethicist, working on areas that cross over between ethics, technology and security. He is a lecturer at the National Security College (NSC) in the Australian National University, Canberra, Australia and a research fellow with Delft University of Technology in The Hague, The Netherlands. His research concerns ethical and philosophical analyses of information technology and its uses, military ethics and relations between ethics and national security. He has published on surveillance, emerging military technologies and intelligence and cyberspace. He is the secretary of the Asia-Pacific Chapter of the International Society of Military Ethics (APAC-ISME).

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ADAM HENSCHKE

Australian National University



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*To my parents and siblings, real and theoretical:
Pam, Jurgen and Chris. CAPPE's staff and students.
Without you all I would not be myself.*

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Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>page xi</i>
PART I SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGIES AND ETHICAL VACUUMS	1
1 On the Project and Its Motivation	3
1.1 The Project: Ushering in the Age of Surveillance	3
1.2 The Motivation: From Intimate to Innocuous Information	6
1.3 Virtual Identity in an Ethical Vacuum?	12
1.4 Personal Information and the Failure of Simple Ethical Theories	15
1.5 On My Methodology and Terminology	20
1.6 Structure	24
2 On Privacy	28
2.1 Privacy's Limits in an Age of Surveillance	28
2.2 Surveillance and Privacy in Public: The Case of Kate and Karl	29
2.3 Privacy's Recent History	34
2.4 Privacy Questions	44
2.5 Pluralism in Privacy	47
2.6 Surveillance Technologies and Privacy's Return	52
2.7 Kate and Karl Revisited: Pluralism in Privacy	54
3 On Property	56
3.1 Property's Failure in an Age of Surveillance	56
3.2 Owning the Products of Surveillance: The Case of CCTV	57
3.3 Property's Recent History	59
3.4 Intellectual Property: Owning the Intangible	74
3.5 Surveillance Products, Personal Information and Property	78
3.6 CCTV Revisited: Relating Information to People	84

	PART II IDENTITY AND INFORMATION	87
4	On Identity	89
	4.1 Identity in a World of Information: An Age of Surveillance	89
	4.2 What Are We Doing with Our Lives? The Case of Sally Online	90
	4.3 From Information to Identification	91
	4.4 Experience: What We Know Tells Us What We Will Know	97
	4.5 What Is Identity?	100
	4.6 A Taxonomy of Identity Elements	106
	4.7 Sally Revisited: Virtual Identity	122
5	On Information	126
	5.1 Information Everywhere	126
	5.2 Information as Morally Reactive: The Case of the Aggression Gene	127
	5.3 Data: The Pieces of the Puzzle	129
	5.4 Syntax: The Rules of the Game	130
	5.5 Semantics: What Is the Meaning of This?	131
	5.6 Knowledge: Fitting Information to Truth	134
	5.7 Information and Communication	140
	5.8 New Information	144
	5.9 The Aggression Gene Revisited: Multirealisability	149
6	On Identity and Information	152
	6.1 Identity and Information: Stepping Into the Circle of Surveillance	152
	6.2 What Causes What? The Case of Watching Watchers/CCTV Operators	153
	6.3 The Role of Cognition: Information Forms Identity	157
	6.4 Identity Forms Information	163
	6.5 Dyadic Relations and Mutual Causation	170
	6.6 Explicating the Elements of the Identity/Information Dyad	173
	6.7 The Identity/Information Dyad: How One Shapes the Other	176
	6.8 Dyadic Relations, Personal Information and Surveillance	179
	6.9 CCTV Operators Revisited: Explanatory Priority	180
	PART III ETHICAL IMPORTANCE OF INFORMATION	183
7	On Importance	185
	7.1 Surveillance Technologies and Moral Importance: Personalising Information	185
	7.2 Personal Information in Pieces: The Benign and Powerful Role of Metadata	186
	7.3 Setting Limits on Identity	188

7.4	What is Personal Information?	192
7.5	Personal Information and Virtual Identity	196
7.6	Metadata Revisited: The Moral Importance of Virtual Identities	197
8	On Individuals	199
8.1	Individuals as Willing Informational Agents	199
8.2	Personal Information for All: The Case of Wearable Health Technologies	201
8.3	Privacy Claims	202
8.4	Ownership Claims	205
8.5	Basic Recognition Claims	208
8.6	Wearable Health Technologies Revisited: Tracking the Steps	215
9	On Institutions	217
9.1	Information and Institutions	217
9.2	They Are Watching Us: The Case of Edward Snowden	218
9.3	A Taxonomy of Harms	222
9.4	Informational Access	236
9.5	Where to Now?	242
9.6	Snowden Revisited: Harms, Benefits and Distribution	245
10	In Conclusion	252
10.1	Surveillance Is Good	252
10.2	Justifying the Use of Personal Information: What's the Point?	253
10.3	From Potential Challenges to Disaggregation	257
10.4	Practical Responses: Value-Sensitive Design and Virtual Identities	261
10.5	Reflections on Ethics in the Age of Surveillance	264
	<i>Appendix 1 Glossary of Terms</i>	267
	<i>References</i>	271
	<i>Index</i>	295

PART I

Surveillance Technologies and Ethical Vacuums

