

Tactics of Civic Data Activism

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**2019 FAWCO Biennial Conference
22 March 2019**

1. Rise of Dataveillance

2. Civil Society Responses

1. DATAVEILLANCE

DATAVEILLANCE

- **Counters many of the positive historic claims about the 'Information Society', 'Post-industrial Society' or the 'Third Wave' (80s and 90s)**
 - **Service-led economy would reduce drudgery, increase leisure time, and make work more fulfilling**
 - **Services would be tailored more to individual tastes, empowering the consumer**
 - **More lateral organising and direct democracy**
- **Counters many expectations that the internet would lead to new economic models that favoured collective labour and shared cultural and knowledge resources (late 90s and 2000s)**
 - **Open source movement**
 - **Creative Commons**
 - **Wikipedia**
- **Dampens more recent hopes about open data (mid-2000s onwards)**

DATAVEILLANCE

- **Jean-Francois Lyotard: ties the commodification of data and data monopolies (1984)**
- **Roger Clark: dataveillance (1988)**
- **David Lyon: Surveillance Society (1994)**
- **Zuboff: Surveillance Capitalism**

Lyotard, 'The Postmodern Condition' 1984:

"Functions of regulation, and therefore of reproduction, are being and will be further withdrawn from administrators and entrusted to machines. Increasingly, the central question is becoming who will have access to the information these machines must have in storage to guarantee that the right decisions are made. Access to data is, and will continue to be, the prerogative of experts of all stripes. The ruling class is and will continue to be the class of decision makers."

DATAVEILLANCE

- **Lyotard: ties the commodification of data and data monopolies (1984)**
- **Roger Clark: dataveillance (1988)**
- **David Lyon: Surveillance Society (1994)**
- **Zuboff: Surveillance Capitalism (2019)**

SURVEILLANCE CAPITALISM

'Nearly every product or service that begins with the word "smart" or "personalised", every internet-enabled device, every "digital assistant", is simply a supply-chain interface for the unobstructed flow of behavioural data on its way to predicting our futures in a surveillance economy.'

– Zuboff 2019

“It is no longer enough to automate information flows *about us*, the goal now is to *automate us*.” - Zuboff

DATAVEILLANCE INFRASTRUCTURES

- **Corporate**
- **Government**
 - **Law enforcement**
 - **Social services**
- **Non-profit**
 - **Global charities**
 - **Universities**

Gambling

Revealed: how gambling industry targets poor people and ex-gamblers

Third-party companies harvest data, giving online casinos a cheaper way to lure people, the Guardian can reveal

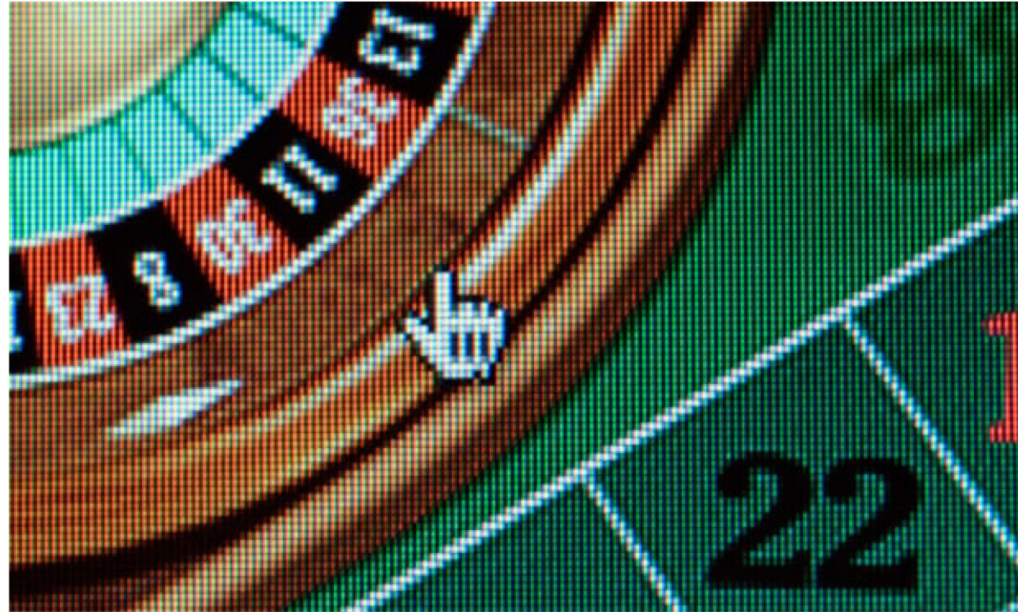
Mattha Busby

@matthabusby

Thu 31 Aug 2017 18.31 BST



1,827



▲ The revelations will add to calls for tighter regulation of the gambling industry. Photograph: Alamy Stock Photo

The gambling industry is using third-party companies to harvest people's data, helping bookmakers and online casinos target people on low incomes and those who have stopped gambling, the Guardian can reveal.

Traditional online gambling ads have become more expensive, which has encouraged betting firms to resort to alternative means to hook consumers. This led to the increasing use of data analysis to win new customers, industry sources said.

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LAW ENFORCEMENT

- **Live-monitored CCTV cameras (trapwire) equipped with facial recognition software**
- **Automatic license plate readers**
- **Predictive policing software**
- **Stingrays and dirtboxes that mimic cell phone towers**
- **Body cameras**
- **Drones**

PREDICTIVE POLICING

- **Crime mapping: place based**
- **Individual risk assessment programs: place and person based**

“the composition of flecks and bits of data into a profile of a terror suspect, the re-grounding of abstract data in the targeting of an actual life, will have the effect of producing that life, that body, as a terror suspect.”

-Rita Raley

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“it was announced that the data integration effort would not involve any beneficiaries’ personally identifiable information (PII). This is an increasingly common trope in data use and data exploitation, meant to downplay concerns about the processing of potentially sensitive data. It is also a red herring. Companies like Palantir do not need access to PII or personal data to draw tremendously deep insights into people’s lives, behaviors, movements, and associations.

The risks are not from being individually identified, but from being profiled and targeted for intervention as a type, rather than as an individual.”

-Global Data Justice

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Biometrics in the Humanitarian Sector

THE
ENGINE
ROOM



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2. CIVIL SOCIETY RESPONSES

CIVIL SOCIETY RESPONDS:

- **Data activism: using data to take control of how an issue is represented and understood in the public sphere**
- **Monitoring: watching the watchers**
- **Evading: blocking data capture**
- **Platform alternatives: designing alternatives to commercial monopolies**
- **Social movements?**

DATA ACTIVISM:

- Deliberative vs. agonistic (counter-data)
- Civic science and citizen sensing

LOS ANGELES COUNTY BIKE COALITION


Bike Count Data Clearinghouse Hello, guest. Login

Home View Count Data Add/Edit Dataset Download Data

LA County Cities Bike Data (Metro) Bike Data (Google)


Map Satellite

Google Map Data Terms of Use Report a problem

Click on the  icon to get information about the location. You may need to zoom in. The corresponding Google Streetview for the selected location will be shown above.

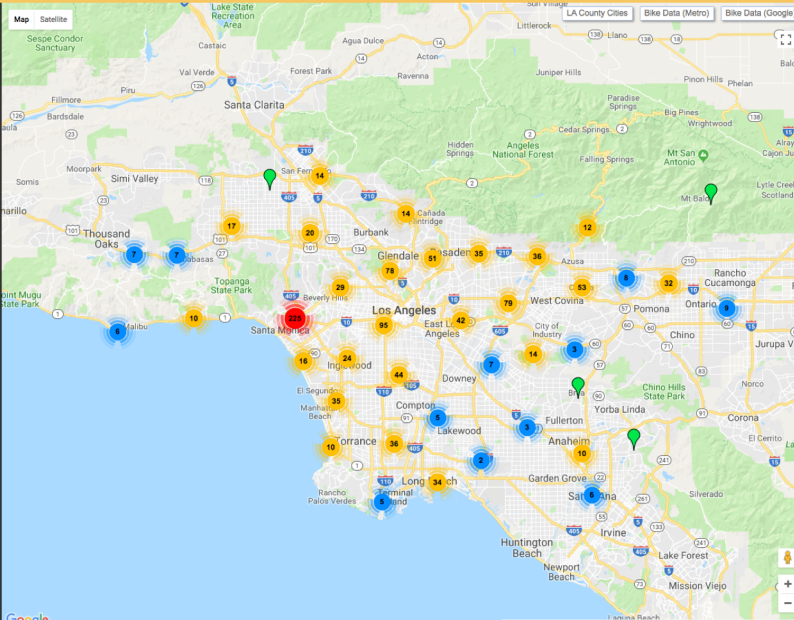
The following layers can be toggled on and off above the map:

- LA County Cities
- LA Metro Bike Layer
- Google Bike Layer (only available below a certain zoom level)

Locations with the  icon indicate counts were obtained using automated counters.

NOTE: There will be some lag time for newly uploaded volume counts to show up so that the data can be verified.

DISCLAIMER: UCLA cannot vouch for the validity of the data. All data shown are submitted by outside parties. Users assume the risk for relying on data and information shown on this site, and further agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the University of California and its employees, officers and agents for any and all liability of any nature arising out of or resulting from any lack of accuracy or correctness of the information or data, or the use of the information or data.



Bicycle/Pedestrian Data Collection - Screenline Count Form

Date: / /

Location:

Count Period: to

Rain: Yes No

Bicyclists

Count bicyclists when they cross this imaginary line

Bikes - Right to Left

Bikes - Left to Right

Make additional marks to count other characteristics

Female:

Sidewalk Riding:

Wrong Way Riding:

Other:

Other:

Pedestrians

Count pedestrians when they cross this imaginary line

Pedestrians - Right to Left

Pedestrians - Left to Right

Make additional marks to count other characteristics

Wheelchair/Special Needs:

Skateboard/Scooter/Skates:

Child:

Other:

Other:

DATA ACTIVISM:

- Deliberative vs. agonistic (counter-data)
- Civic science and citizen sensing

**LA COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT USE OF FORCE RESULTING IN DEATH OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS
FROM JANUARY 2007 – AUGUST 2014**

Name	Age	Gender	Race	Date	Address	City
Pedro Santa Cruz	40	Male	Latino	7/21/2010	E Street and McDonald Avenue	Wilmington
<i>Officers claim Santa Cruz was punching police officer, and another officer thought "he was stabbing him" and shot him.</i>						
Leonel Mateos	20	Male	Latino	8/28/2010	Washington Blvd. and Arlington Ave.	Arlington Hts. (LA)
<i>Police said Mateos was hitting a car window with a baseball bat, so was shot by police.</i>						
Manuel Ramirez	37	Male	Latino	9/5/2010	West 6 th Street and South Union Ave.	Pico Union (LA)
<i>Allegedly, Ramirez was holding a knife, and walking drunkenly. Police shot him in the head 3 times. Residents at the scene yelled at the police, and crowds protested for several days.</i>						
Jack Schlesinger	25	Male	White	9/28/2010	1633 W. Temple St.	Temple-Beaudry (LA)
Reginald Linthicum	43	Male	Black	10/4/2010	1360 West 6 th Street	San Pedro
James Davis (photo left)	18	Male	Black	10/7/2010	2048 E. 114 th St.	Watts (S. Central LA)
<i>Davis' mother moved to Moreno Valley to get James away from the violence in LA. He was visiting his family in Watts, and was shot once in the back while "running away." Several witnesses say that when he stopped by police, he dropped a gun and surrendered. The crowd that formed after the shooting was called an "angry mob" by the police, and they issued a tactical alert in response. But the crowds according to the YJC and several community intervention groups at the scene was upset, but peaceful.</i>						
Johnathan Cuevas (photo left)	20	Male	Latino	10/10/10	Long Beach Blvd. and Josephine St.	Lynwood
<i>Cuevas was stopped by Sheriffs deputies while walking home. Because he was on Probation, he panicked and ran. He was shot in the back while "running away." The autopsy also revealed what witnesses claimed – that deputies flipped Jonathan over and also shot him in the front.</i>						



TOOLKIT

THE MAKING SENSE TOOLKIT

Over the course of the project we'll be filling this space with materials and methods for the orchestrations of participatory sensing campaigns.

[TOOLKIT](#)

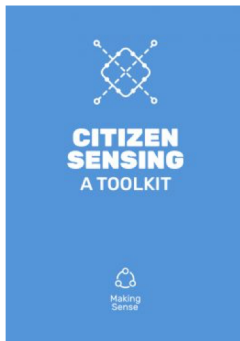
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24 JANUARY 2018

Making Sense: the Toolkit

We produced this book as a part of the Making Sense project, which draws on nine citizen sensing campaigns in Holland, Kosovo and Spain in 2016 and 2017. In them, we have developed a form of citizen participation in environmental monitoring and action which is bottom-up, participatory and empowering to the community: this is called citizen sensing. If you are interested in best practices and tools for community engagement and co-creation, this book is for you.

[Download the Toolkit!](#)

[DOWNLOAD PDF](#) 



EVADING DATAVEILLANCE:

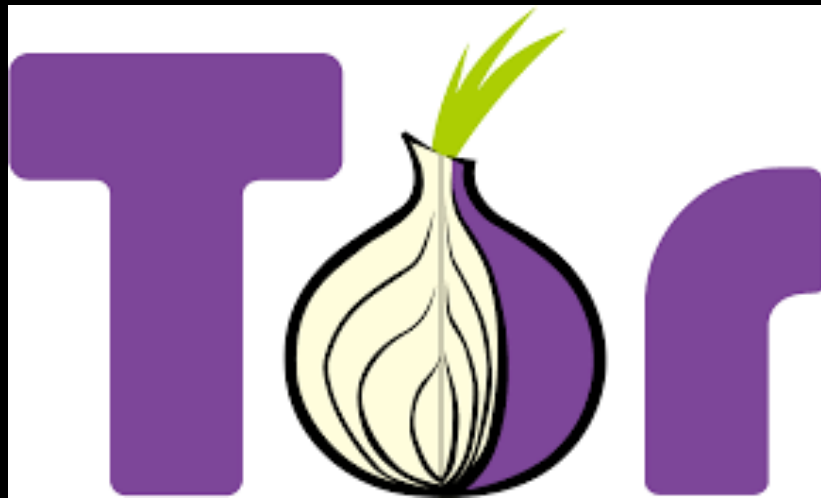
1. Ad blockers and alternative search
2. Tor
3. Organising to stop data collection altogether

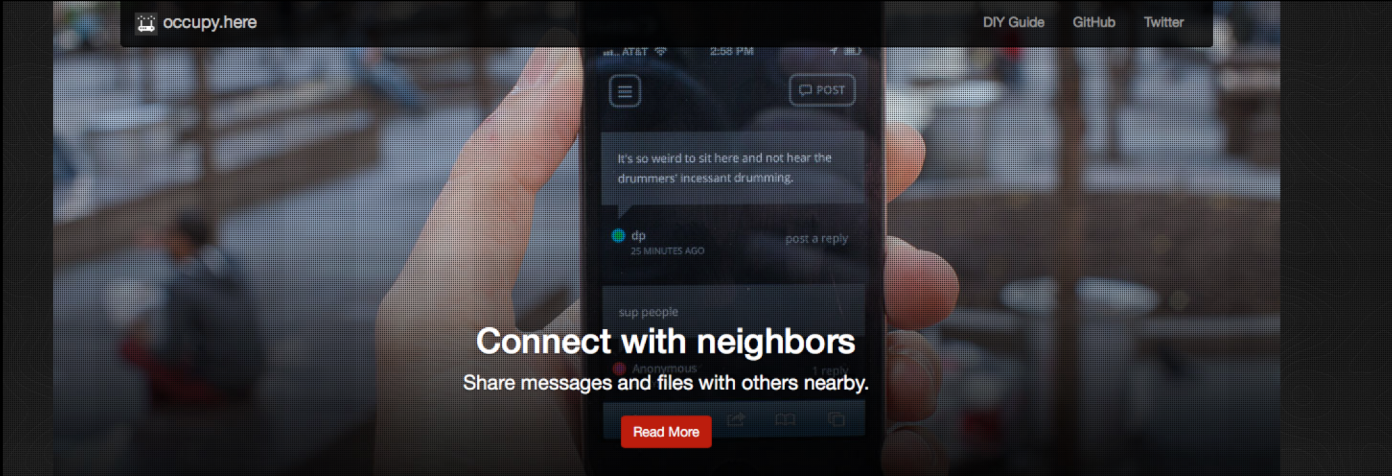


DuckDuckGo



The search engine that doesn't track you. [Help Spread DuckDuckGo!](#)





Connect with neighbors

Share messages and files with others nearby.



What is it?

Each Occupy.here router is a LAN island in an archipelago of affiliated websites.

Anyone within range of an Occupy.here wifi router, with a web-capable smartphone or laptop, can join the network "OCCUPY.HERE," load the locally-hosted website <http://occupy.here>, and use the message board to connect with other users nearby. The open source forum software offers a simple, mobile-friendly interface where users can share messages and files.

The project has developed in parallel with the Occupy movement and seeks to offer a network of virtual spaces where both committed activists and casual supporters can communicate.

Due to its distributed and autonomous design, Occupy.here is inherently resistant to internet surveillance. Building up a collective network infrastructure that is owned and

Download

[occupy.here release 7](#)

NOVEMBER 29, 2013

- [Install guide](#)
- [Upgrade guide](#)
- [GitHub project](#)

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- [Contact us via email](#)
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News

NOVEMBER 29, 2013

Almost as soon as I'd uploaded yesterday's release number six, I realized the newly added Library feature had a serious flaw in how it handled imported HTML files. This bugfix release addresses that and a security vulnerability I discovered in the Library code. Be sure to update if you installed release number six!

Download: [Occupy.here release 7](#)

[Show more](#)

MONITORY

- **Collecting data on the watcher**
- **Reverse engineering the algorithm**
- **Grassroots advocacy to change policy**



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FATAL ENCOUNTERS

A step toward creating an impartial,
comprehensive, and searchable national database
of people killed during interactions with law
enforcement.



OpenSCHUFA

The project OpenSCHUFA examines the scoring process of Germany's largest credit agency based on a large-scale crowdsourcing campaign.

OpenSCHUFA is a joint project of the Open Knowledge Foundation Germany and AlgorithmWatch. With OpenSCHUFA we want to focus on the comprehensive data collection and automated evaluation of the financial behavior of almost all adult residents in Germany: In our opinion, there is too little transparency and democratic control over this credit scoring by the well-known credit agency SCHUFA. The project runs from the beginning of 2018 until February 2019.

Published: January 27, 2019



STOP LAPD SPYING COALITION

“We reject all forms of police oppression and any policy that make us all suspects in the eyes of the State. Our vision is the dismantling of government-sanctioned spying and intelligence gathering, in all its multiple forms.”



Dismantling Predictive Policing in Los Angeles

May 8th 2018

Predictive policing refers to a range of policing practices that claim to use pre-existing demographic, environmental, and historic crime data to predict future patterns of crime as well as presuming “where crime will occur,” and “who” will commit crime. Predictive policing can be best understood within the broader creep of data-intensive surveillance on the part of law enforcement.



Stop LAPD Spying Coalition is a grassroots community organization calling for the dismantling of predictive policing tactics as a harm reduction strategy on the road toward abolition.

PLATFORM ALTERNATIVES



[HTTP://PLATFORM.COOP/2017](http://platform.coop/2017)

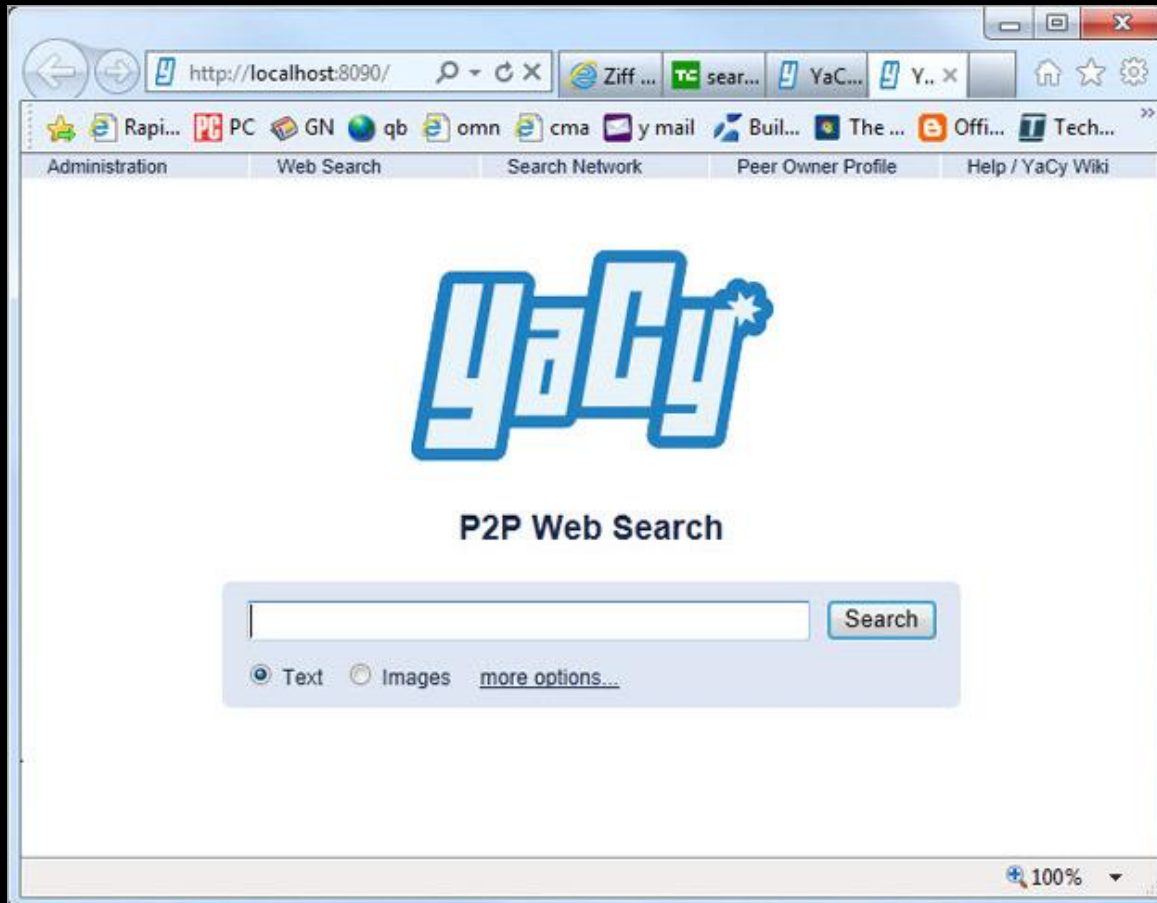


MODO



All of the benefits, none of the hassle.

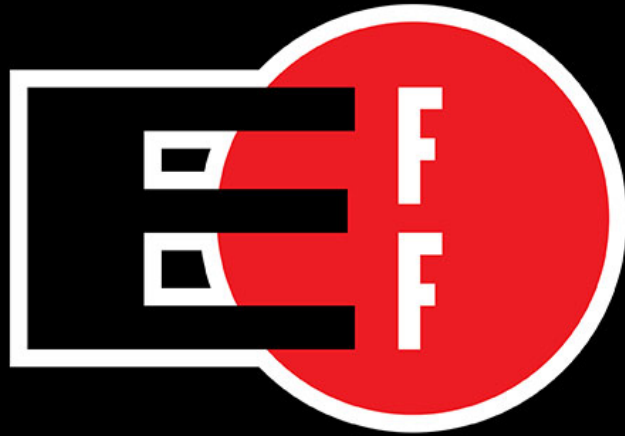
SEARCH



SOCIAL?



SOCIAL MOVEMENTS?



[Center for
Humane
Technology]

THANK YOU!