

The IPSI Lecture Series Presents:

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Tracking Canadians' data through Trump's America. Better to keep it more local?

Professor Andrew Clement

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Much Canadian data is stored in, and more still travels via the U.S., where it is exposed to mass surveillance by U.S. corporations and state agencies, notably the National Security Agency (NSA). Notwithstanding the privacy, security and other risks to data from surveillance conducted within Canada, once outside our jurisdiction it loses substantive legal and constitutional protections. While the threats from U.S. surveillance are longstanding, they are significantly increased under the Trump Administration.

This talk focuses on the risks to privacy and network sovereignty of Canadians' data traveling via the US, and what might be done to address them. It draws from on-going research into visualizing internet routing and where data passes through sites of suspected NSA interception. The IXmaps.ca internet mapping tool will be used to demonstrate the frequently occurring pattern of "boomerang routing," data paths that originate and terminate in Canada but pass through the U.S., and one or more of its major surveillance hubs. The talk concludes by offering a range of remedial actions, principally based on strategies of data localization and institutional reform, before opening up for discussion and debate.

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Andrew Clement is a Professor Emeritus in the Faculty of Information at the University of Toronto, where he coordinates the Information Policy Research Program and co-founded the Identity Privacy and Security Institute (IPSI). With a PhD in Computer Science, he has had Iongstanding research and teaching interests in the social implications of information/ communication technologies and participatory design.

Among his recent privacy/surveillance research projects, are:

Snowden Archives, an on-line searchable collection of all documents leaked by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden subsequently published by news media (in collaboration with Canadian Journalists for Free Expression (CJFE));

Seeing Through the Cloud, which examined extra-national outsourcing of eCommunications services, especially by universities;

IXmaps.ca, an internet mapping tool that helps make more visible NSA warrantless wiretapping activities and the routing of Canadian personal data through the U.S. even when the origin and destination are both in Canada.