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Chapter 20: The Luddite Argument, the Titanic Phenomenon and the Fix-a-Problem Strategy

Chapter 21: Conclusion

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Case of biometrics



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- Biometric identification identifies people based on their bodily features and characteristics
- Promises additional security against pretending to be someone else
- Author worries that this gives the government too much surveillance power
- Biometrics can't be changed, what if data leaks?

Luddite argument and Titanic phenomenon



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- Titanic phenomenon: Something that is considered to never fail, often fails – for example: dangers of biometrics on the previous slide.
- Luddite argument: Privacy advocates are called Luddites by security proponents – “change is bad”
- Fix-a-Problem strategy: Officials complain about a problem and it must be fixed
- In what order should problems be fixed? In the case of biometrics why should we prioritize identification?

Solove's proposal



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Instead of making laws in response to new technology, we should prepare for new technology to arrive.



Chapter 21: Conclusion

Conclusion



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- The aim of this book is not to solve privacy for good, but remove faulty arguments from discussions
- We should stop using the faulty arguments seen throughout the book (like the nothing-to-hide argument or all-or-nothing fallacy)
- Polls often fall into the all-or-nothing fallacy
- Better privacy can also make better security as ineffective security measures will not be implemented
- Government should not be begging citizens to trust them
- **Without faulty arguments we can come up with a compromise between effective privacy and effective security**



Discussion