

The NSA Is Spying On Everything, On All Your Digital Communications. “They’re Collecting Content Word for Word”

By [Washington's Blog](#)

Global Research, January 30, 2014

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Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [Intelligence](#), [Police State & Civil Rights](#)

The NSA’s spying on everyone’s metadata can tell them [just about everything about us](#) ... and it [violates our Constitutional right to freedom of association](#).

But people are getting distracted from the big picture by focusing on metadata.

As security expert Bruce Schneier [wrote](#) yesterday:

What frustrates me about all of this — [the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board] report, the president’s speech, and so many other things — is that they focus on the bulk collection of cell phone call records. There’s so much more bulk collection going on — [phone calls](#), [e-mails](#), [address books](#), [buddy lists](#), [text messages](#), [cell phone location data](#), [financial documents](#), [calendars](#), [smartphone apps](#)] etc. — and we really need legislation and court opinions on it all. But because cell phone call records were the [first disclosure](#), they’re what gets the attention.

Indeed, Schneier [confirmed](#) last October what we’ve been saying for years ... don’t get too distracted by the details, because the government is spying on *everything*:

Honestly, I think **the details matter less and less. We have to assume that the NSA has EVERYONE who uses electronic communications under CONSTANT surveillance.** New details about hows and whys will continue to emerge ...but the big picture will remain the same.

[He’s right.](#)

As just one example, there is [substantial evidence](#) from top NSA and FBI whistleblowers that the government [is recording the content](#) of our calls and emails ... [word-for-word](#).

So what should we make of the government’s denials that it records content?

Given that the government has been [caught lying about spying again and again](#), I’m not sure how much weight we should give to such denials.

NSA whistleblower Russ Tice [notes](#):

They're collecting content ... **word-for-word**.***

You can't trust these people. They lie, and **they lie a lot**.

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