

In the aftermath of Paris: sacrificing freedom for security online?

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13 November attacks

- deadliest in France since WW2
- worldwide outcry
- something needs to be done!

Shortly after the attacks politicians demand

- data retention
- EU PNR
- reconsideration of the general data protection regulation
- backdoors to encryption

and

- blocking open wi-fis and TOR
- more online censorship
- more mass surveillance capacities
- information sharing

What are the arguments?

- we need more data
- we need more capacities
- we need more financial resources

Do the arguments hold up?

- terrorists are mainly homegrown
 - PNR?
- terrorists were known before
 - mass surveillance?
- targeted surveillance can circumvent encryption
 - encryption backdoors?

Do the arguments hold up? (II)

- terrorists are not constricted to legal options
 - banning wi-fi, tor, encryption
- offline radicalisation
 - online censorship?
- too many suspects (10'000 in France)
 - mass surveillance?
- huge increase in budgets in previous years

Politicians *do not* understand intelligence agencies' work

- no oversight over intelligence agencies
- politicians have to trust agencies and the security industry
- they - surprise! - say they need more resources
- politicians do not understand the importance of online freedoms

Politicians *do* understand the public's fear

- public wants more security even if it endangers freedom
 - France: 67 - 90%; in Germany 92% want more security and 5% are worried about freedoms
- leaked letter by Valls: EU PNR "would be a strong symbolic gesture"

Conclusion

- measures fight terrorism?
- no, it's a structural problem! but they help prevent attacks?
- no, they don't! but they help make people feel safe?
- no! they increase paranoia and lead to more fear

**We are sacrificing online
freedoms for a fake sense
of security**

Questions?