Programs : ST - Meeting #2 - Notes 5.18.2021

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Summary:

Overall initial thoughts on surveillance definitions  
.Definition should be broad, and expand to protect not only individuals  
but also other entities from groups and orgs to software and hardware

.There needs to be a communicated understanding that not all surveillance is  
banned, nor is all surveillance technology bad for the community

.The community needs to not only be engaged for decision making but also for  
an understanding of why that technology is being considered for  
implementation

.Whether a technology is being monitored and used or not, any collection at  
all is what makes that surveillance eg a camera being on but not monitored

.We need to consider reasonable expectation of privacy and how to ensure  
that scalability as technology changes

.How do we consider the combination and usage of data sources both internal  
and third party that at collection were not identifiable but when joined are?

.Ultimately there are three moving parts: method, information (what  
can we or should we access), and targeted or blanketed information

Surveillance tech definition discussion  
.There needs to be a way in the definition to ease the mind of the public  
they are not inherently being watched. Examples of past usage included in the  
definition could ease this concern.

.The use of social justice and equity within the definition will help both us  
and the public be reminded that the purpose of implemented technologies is to  
be an equaling and beneficial force.

.Definition should be expanded to not just individuals. We will need to  
determine what that broad scope encases.

.Usage, modelling, storage, and destruction of this data needs to come  
into consideration.

.Part of our responsibility will be considering how data sets can be used  
together and how they will be allowed to be used together.

.We need to consider how to walk a thin line between ensuring thorough  
assessment of technology and allowing for technological growth within  
the city.

initial discussion:

Ken: RF sensing, 5G, RADAR, LIDAR, acoustic, etc., all drone related  
capabilities.

Martha: More than just the gather of data. includes all usage of the data.  
also extended beyond identifiable individuals to include groups, organizations,  
systems, and entities

Cecile: Body cams, street cams, dash cams. we don't use surveillance very  
often, more reactive than proactive. often this is reviewed when an event  
goes out from dispatch. rarely if not ever do we follow individuals without  
reason. never use cameras to surveil for no reason at all. community has brought  
up concerns. door to door canvassing helped change the perspective of residents.  
since then cameras have actually been requested been the community.

Sharon: body cams are now being accepted by both police and the community.

Patrick: legally there is a reasonable expectation of privacy, which needs to  
remain broad and able to update as the reasonable expectation of privacy changes  
while technology grows

Jake: privacy is a concern that needs to be balanced with technology for the  
public interest. how do we reconcile social tech (third party data sources that  
can be combined with the info we collect)

Nico: practices are important, for example vaccine hesitancy sentiment analysis

Johannes: Ultimately there are three moving parts: method, information (what  
can we or should we access), and targeted or blanketed information

Ocesa: when discussing defining surveillance in tech we should be looking to be  
as broad as possible

Tim: ensuring that use is added into the definition. active vs passive and  
reactive vs proactive use as we look to the future. what triggers the usage of  
that tech?

Mark: discussion of passive use data still being collected even if not being  
used for decision making. intention is important but even having a camera and  
not monitored is surveillance

Nico: reminder that not all surveillance tech is bad, it's about what  
technologies we should implement vs not

surv tech: Technologies that observe or analyze the movements,  
behavior, or actions of identifiable individuals in a manner  
that is reasonably likely to raise concerns about civil liberties,  
freedom of speech or association, racial equity or social justice.

Sharon: the use of the term indicates to the public that they are  
being watched. this creates the connotation that they are being  
surveilled. I would not be able to talk my father out of that  
notion. At one point we had a standoff in baldwinsville. We sent in  
a drone for the explicit purpose of surveilling and identifying  
that purpose and that allowed us to defuse the situation

Jen: this def is interesting because it's broad, it's really about  
observance overall for a specific purpose and specifies identifiable  
individuals. the last piece becomes the most important as many  
come at the definition from different perspectives, having a  
definition of surv tech that identifies why we're using the  
tech in the first place (social justice, civil liberties, etc.)  
can help as a piece of comms marketing. helps to explain why a  
given technology might be implemented.

Ken: is it really just individuals we're concerned about  
surveilling, but maybe objects as well. for example, cameras  
throughout the city tracking the path of a drone, or the unique tracking code

Johannes: People may object to having their property surveilled by  
drones

Martha: I would not like the objects to be limited to physical  
objects but also to non-physical objects such as bots. I would  
like to see protections to encapsulate these technologies and  
capabilities (process) as well

Ken: Any data that was collected can be used to be combined with  
other data. how do we ensure those processes are protected as well

Michelle: How do we create restrictions around post collection  
modelling esp around creating equity in any potential biases

Mark: def talks about identifiable individuals, but with a certain  
amount of information eg demographic data we can ultimately  
identify an individual. this isn't just limited to images or data  
but also voice and other sounds collected by sensors. be careful  
about how we define identifiable.

Jen: i think we need to think about not creating a process that's  
going to be at the end of the day overly onerous to implement,  
where there's not a real clear threat (solution wo a problem).  
is a digital survey instrument going to fall under our definition  
of surveillance? we need to not confuse surveillance with the need  
for security and privacy. we shouldn't be hampering our digital  
transformation goals by creating a culture of 'no'

\*\*Exemptions

Data collection tech: Technologies that use a systematic approach  
to gathering and measuring information from a variety of sources  
to get a complete and accurate picture of an area of interest.

Next Steps:

Scheduling next meeting for two weeks from now.

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