

Embracing Post-Privacy

Optimism towards a future
where there is “Nothing to hide”

Christian Heller / <http://www.plomlompom.de>

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“cctv” by Subcircle (<http://www.subcircle.co.uk/>)

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Overview

- pessimism: the end of privacy
- question: the meaning of privacy
- optimism: ideas for post-privacy ~~dys...~~ utopias
- reading recommendations
- discussion



“Secure Beneath the Watchful Eyes” by Kenneth Lu (<http://subjunctive.net/klog/>)
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Privacy is doomed

- the privacy-eating monster
 - growingly well-fed, ubiquitous, attractive, intelligent
 - once information is in, it cannot be removed again
- the privacy-defending army
 - laws ineffective; technology insecure
 - pre-MySpace generation getting old, disappearing
- an uneven battle for the army
 - cannot be won ultimately
 - can only be lost; easily



"Privat" by Daniel Lobo (<http://www.daquellamanera.org/>)
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What is the meaning of Privacy?

- self-determination
 - make your own decisions about your life
 - freedom from interference by others
- information control
 - control what information flows from you to others
 - control what information flows to you from others
- intimacy
 - sharing of privacy
 - interpersonal trust, dependence



“Tanzliedchen” by Hugo Bürkner, 1854
http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bürkner_Tanzliedchen.jpg

private

vs.

public

- house, backroom, home PC, head/brain
- hidden
- secure from scrutiny of social norms
- free individual?
- woman
- isolated
- closet homosexuality

- forum, parliament, newspaper, Slashdot
- visible
- accountable to social norms
- controlled conformist?
- man
- interconnected
- gay pride parade



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Hiding vs. Sharing

- new information economy
 - no zero-sum game
 - the more you give, the more you receive
- more information better than less information
 - market runs better with more information
 - information more valuable (to the owner) if shared
- the Hive Mind
 - growing with or without you
 - you gain more by participating than you lose



“IMG_3483.JPG” by Drab Makyo (<http://www.drab-makyo.com/>)
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Redefining Normality

- diversity instead of conformism
 - difference is good! difference is information!
 - personalization instead of “Gleichschaltung”
- new normality: no normality
 - no escape from ever-increasing diversity
 - forces tolerance increase
- the googling employer?
 - no untarnished candidates; emptiness suspicious
 - originality cannot yet be outsourced, automatized



“Identity Thief as Paris” by David Goehring (<http://flickr.com/photos/carbonnyc/>)
<http://flickr.com/photos/carbonnyc/57280104/in/photostream/>

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Identity fluidity & volatility

- identity multiplicity
 - one human can constitute many identities
 - one identity can be constituted by many humans
- no static core identity anymore
 - identity hyper-dynamism; 15 minutes of identity x
 - identity viruses may freely change their hosts
- no more identity prison
 - be what's fun to be, not what you supposedly “are”
 - the end of guilt



“Restaurant Surveillance Sign” by Richard Smith (<http://flickr.com/people/smith/>)
<http://flickr.com/photos/smith/55403952/>

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Surveillance vs. Sousveillance

- equiveillance
 - watching, documenting actions of police & co.
 - document yourself; Hasan Elahi alibi
- transparency of force
 - no secret watching; open the camera feeds!
 - more powerful → more transparency
- freedom through total transparency?
 - worst case scenario, “better than alternative”
 - still room for secrets of any kind?

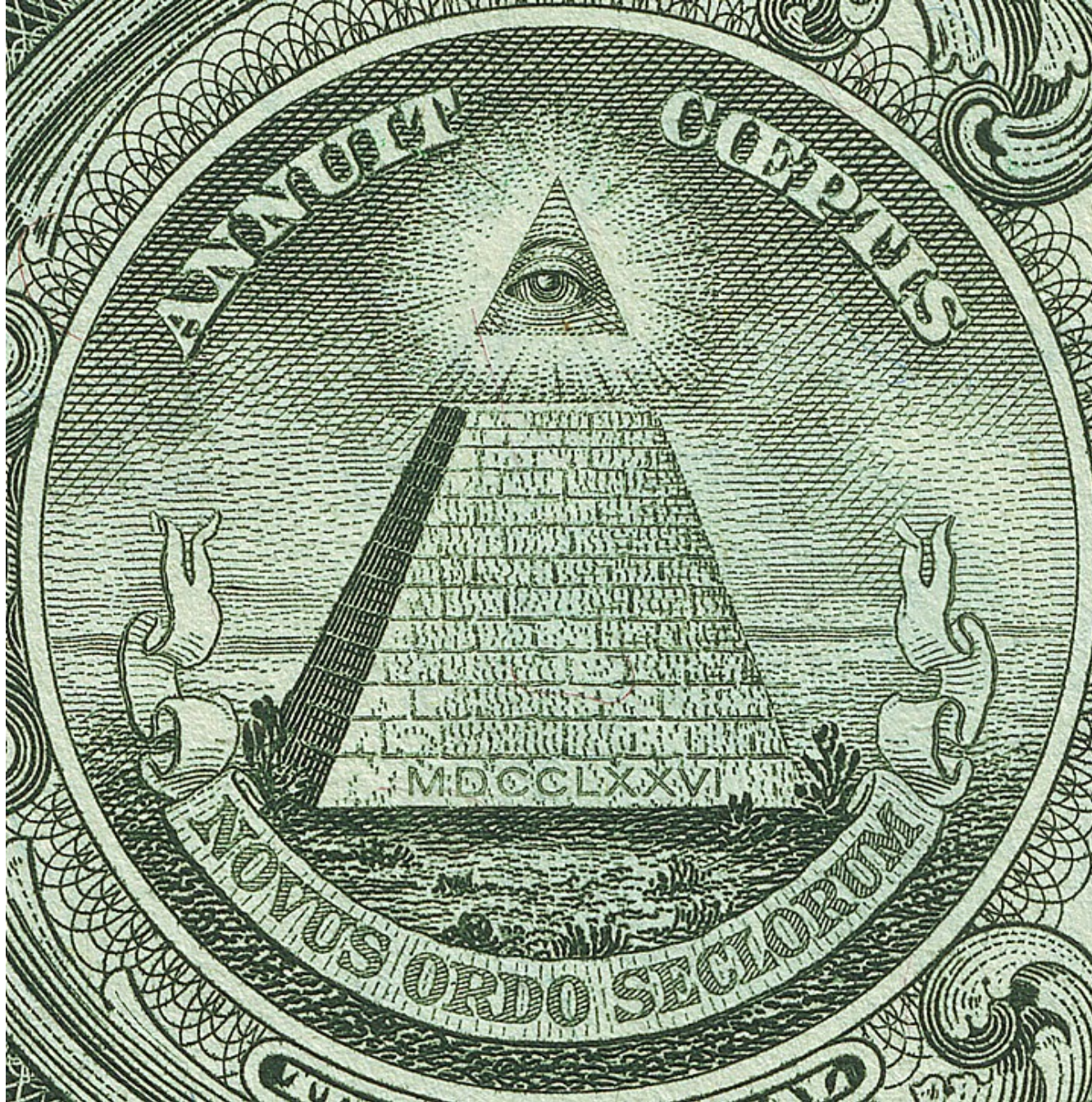


"WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?" by nolifebeforecoffee
(<http://www.nolifebeforecoffee.blogspot.com/>)
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Control vs. Trust

- lack of information: less freedom
 - fear, suspicion, mistrust
 - need for control, deterrence
 - many strict, general laws; strong punishments
- abundance of information: more freedom
 - trust
 - less need for strict control or deterrence
 - few, precise laws; easy punishments



“Pyramid with the all-seeing eye on the back side of the US 1-Dollar bill”
http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Dollarnote_siegel_hq.jpg

Reading recommendations

- “Privacy” in: “Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy”, 2006
 - <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/privacy/>
- “The Value of Privacy”, Beate Rössler, 1995
- “The Fall of Public Man”, Richard Sennett, 1977
- “Facebook and the Social Dynamics of Privacy”, James Grimmelman, 2008
 - http://works.bepress.com/james_grimmelman/20/
- “The Transparent Society”, David Brin, 1998