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The NSA Is Building the Country's Biggest Spy Center (Watch What You Say)

By James Bamford

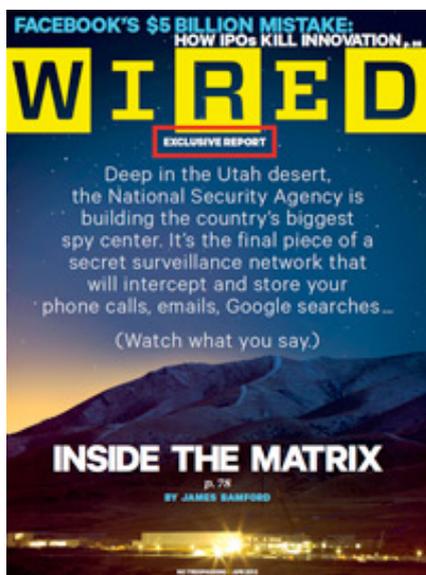
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Photo: Name Withheld; Digital Manipulation: Jesse Lenz

The spring air in the small, sand-dusted town has a soft haze to it, and clumps of green-gray sagebrush rustle in the breeze. Bluffdale sits in a bowl-shaped valley in the shadow of Utah's [Wasatch Range](#) to the east and the [Oquirrh Mountains](#) to the west. It's the heart of Mormon country, where religious pioneers first arrived more than 160 years ago. They came to escape the rest of the world, to understand the mysterious words sent down from their god as revealed on buried golden plates, and to practice what has become known as "the principle," marriage to multiple wives.



Today Bluffdale is home to one of the nation's largest sects of [polygamists](#), the [Apostolic United Brethren](#), with upwards of 9,000 members. The brethren's complex includes a chapel, a school, a sports field, and an archive. Membership has doubled since 1978—and the number of plural marriages has tripled—so the sect has recently been looking for ways to purchase more land and expand throughout the town.

But new pioneers have quietly begun moving into the area, secretive outsiders who say little and keep to themselves. Like the pious polygamists, they are focused on deciphering cryptic messages that only they have the power to understand. Just off Beef Hollow Road, less than a mile from brethren headquarters, thousands of hard-hatted construction workers in sweat-soaked T-shirts are laying the groundwork for the newcomers' own temple and archive, a massive complex so large that it necessitated expanding the town's boundaries. Once built, it will be more than five times the size of the US Capitol.

Rather than Bibles, prophets, and worshippers, this temple will be filled with servers, computer intelligence experts, and armed guards. And instead of listening for words flowing down from heaven, these newcomers will be secretly capturing, storing, and analyzing vast quantities of words and images hurtling through the world's telecommunications networks. In the little town of Bluffdale, Big Love and Big Brother have become uneasy neighbors.

The NSA has become the largest, most covert, and potentially most intrusive intelligence agency ever.

Under construction by contractors with top-secret clearances, the blandly named Utah Data Center is being built for the National Security Agency. A project of immense secrecy, it is the final piece in a complex puzzle assembled over the past decade. Its purpose: to intercept, decipher, analyze, and store vast swaths of the world's communications as they zap down from satellites and zip through the underground and undersea cables of international, foreign, and domestic networks. The heavily fortified \$2 billion center should be up and running in September 2013. Flowing through its servers and routers and stored in near-bottomless databases will be all forms of communication, including the complete contents of private emails, cell phone calls, and Google searches, as well as all sorts of personal data trails—parking receipts, travel itineraries, bookstore purchases, and other digital “pocket litter.” It is, in some measure, the realization of the “total information awareness” program created during the first term of the Bush administration—an effort that was killed by Congress in 2003 after it caused an outcry over its potential for invading Americans' privacy.

But “this is more than just a data center,” says one senior intelligence official who until recently was involved with the program. The mammoth Bluffdale center will have another important and far more secret role that until now has gone unrevealed. It is also critical, he says, for breaking codes. And code-breaking is crucial, because much of the data that the center will handle—financial information, stock transactions, business deals, foreign military and diplomatic secrets, legal documents, confidential personal communications—will be heavily

encrypted. According to another top official also involved with the program, the NSA made an enormous breakthrough several years ago in its ability to cryptanalyze, or break, unfathomably complex encryption systems employed by not only governments around the world but also many average computer users in the US. The upshot, according to this official: “Everybody’s a target; everybody with communication is a target.”

For the NSA, overflowing with tens of billions of dollars in post-9/11 budget awards, the cryptanalysis breakthrough came at a time of explosive growth, in size as well as in power. Established as an arm of the Department of Defense following Pearl Harbor, with the primary purpose of preventing another surprise assault, the NSA suffered a series of humiliations in the post-Cold War years. Caught offguard by an escalating series of terrorist attacks—the first [World Trade Center bombing](#), the blowing up of US embassies in East Africa, the attack on the [USS Cole in Yemen](#), and finally the [devastation of 9/11](#)—some began questioning the agency’s very reason for being. In response, the NSA has quietly been reborn. And while there is little indication that its actual effectiveness has improved—after all, despite numerous pieces of evidence and intelligence-gathering opportunities, it missed the near-disastrous attempted attacks by the underwear bomber on a flight to [Detroit in 2009](#) and by the car bomber in [Times Square in 2010](#)—there is no doubt that it has transformed itself into the largest, most covert, and potentially most intrusive intelligence agency ever created.

In the process—and for the first time since Watergate and the other scandals of the Nixon administration—the NSA has turned its surveillance apparatus on the US and its citizens. It has established listening posts throughout the nation to collect and sift through billions of email messages and phone calls, whether they originate within the country or overseas. It has created a supercomputer of almost unimaginable speed to look for patterns and unscramble codes. Finally, the agency has begun building a place to store all the trillions of words and thoughts and whispers captured in its electronic net. And, of course, it’s all being done in secret. To those on the inside, the old adage that NSA stands for Never Say Anything applies more than ever.

UTAH DATA CENTER

When construction is completed in 2013, the heavily fortified \$2 billion facility in Bluffdale will encompass 1 million square feet.



1 VISITOR CONTROL CENTER

A \$9.7 million facility for ensuring that only cleared personnel gain access.

2 ADMINISTRATION

Designated space for technical support and administrative personnel.

3 DATA HALLS

Four 25,000-square-foot facilities house rows and rows of servers.

4 BACKUP GENERATORS AND FUEL TANKS

Can power the center for at least three days.

5 WATER STORAGE AND PUMPING

Able to pump 1.7 million gallons of liquid per day.

6 CHILLER PLANT

About 60,000 tons of cooling equipment to keep servers from overheating.

7 POWER SUBSTATION

An electrical substation to meet the center's estimated 65-megawatt demand.

8 SECURITY

Video surveillance, intrusion detection, and other protection will cost more than \$10 million.

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Conceptual Site plan

A swath of freezing fog blanketed Salt Lake City on the morning of January 6, 2011, mixing with a weeklong coating of heavy gray smog. Red air alerts, warning people to stay indoors unless absolutely necessary, had become almost daily occurrences, and the temperature was in the bone-chilling twenties. "What I smell and taste is like coal smoke," complained one local blogger that day. At the city's international airport, many inbound flights were delayed or diverted while outbound regional jets were grounded. But among those making it through the

icy mist was a figure whose gray suit and tie made him almost disappear into the background. He was tall and thin, with the physique of an aging basketball player and dark caterpillar eyebrows beneath a shock of matching hair. Accompanied by a retinue of bodyguards, the man was NSA deputy director [Chris Inglis](#), the agency's highest-ranking civilian and the person who ran its worldwide day-to-day operations.

A short time later, Inglis arrived in Bluffdale at the site of the future data center, a flat, unpaved runway on a little-used part of Camp Williams, a National Guard training site. There, in a white tent set up for the occasion, Inglis joined Harvey Davis, the agency's associate director for installations and logistics, and Utah senator Orrin Hatch, along with a few generals and politicians in a surreal ceremony. Standing in an odd wooden sandbox and holding gold-painted shovels, they made awkward jabs at the sand and thus officially broke ground on what the local media had simply dubbed "the spy center." Hoping for some details on what was about to be built, reporters turned to one of the invited guests, Lane Beattie of the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce. Did he have any idea of the purpose behind the new facility in his backyard? "Absolutely not," he said with a self-conscious half laugh. "Nor do I want them spying on me."

For his part, Inglis simply engaged in a bit of double-talk, emphasizing the least threatening aspect of the center: "It's a state-of-the-art facility designed to support the intelligence community in its mission to, in turn, enable and protect the nation's cybersecurity." While cybersecurity will certainly be among the areas focused on in Bluffdale, what is collected, how it's collected, and what is done with the material are far more important issues. Battling hackers makes for a nice cover—it's easy to explain, and who could be against it? Then the reporters turned to Hatch, who proudly described the center as "a great tribute to Utah," then added, "I can't tell you a lot about what they're going to be doing, because it's highly classified." And then there was this anomaly: Although this was supposedly the official ground-breaking for the nation's largest and most expensive cybersecurity project, no one from the Department of Homeland Security, the agency responsible for protecting civilian networks from cyberattack, spoke from the lectern. In fact, the official who'd originally introduced the data center, at a press conference in Salt Lake City in October 2009, had nothing to do with cybersecurity. It was Glenn A. Gaffney, deputy director of national intelligence for collection, a man who had spent almost his entire career at the CIA. As head of collection for the intelligence community, he managed the country's human and electronic spies.

Within days, the tent and sandbox and gold shovels would be gone and Inglis and the generals would be replaced by some 10,000 construction workers. "We've been asked not to talk about the project," Rob Moore, president of Big-D Construction, one of the three major contractors working on the project, told a local reporter. The plans for the center show an extensive security system: an elaborate \$10 million antiterrorism protection program, including a fence designed to stop a 15,000-pound vehicle traveling 50 miles per hour, closed-circuit cameras, a biometric identification system, a vehicle inspection facility, and a visitor-control center. Inside, the facility will consist of four 25,000-square-foot halls filled with servers, complete with raised floor space for cables and storage. In addition, there will be more than 900,000 square feet for technical support and administration. The entire site will be self-sustaining, with fuel tanks large enough to power the backup generators for three days in an emergency, water storage with the capability of pumping 1.7 million gallons of liquid per day, as well as a sewage system and massive air-conditioning system to keep all those servers cool. Electricity will come from the center's own substation built by Rocky Mountain Power to satisfy the 65-megawatt power demand. Such a mammoth amount of energy comes with a mammoth price tag—about \$40 million a year, according to one estimate.

Given the facility's scale and the fact that a terabyte of data can now be stored on a flash drive the size of a man's pinky, the potential amount of information that could be housed in Bluffdale is truly staggering. But so is the exponential growth in the amount of intelligence data being produced every day by the eavesdropping sensors of the NSA and other intelligence agencies. As a result of this "expanding array of theater airborne and other sensor networks," as a 2007 Department of Defense report puts it, the Pentagon is attempting to expand its worldwide

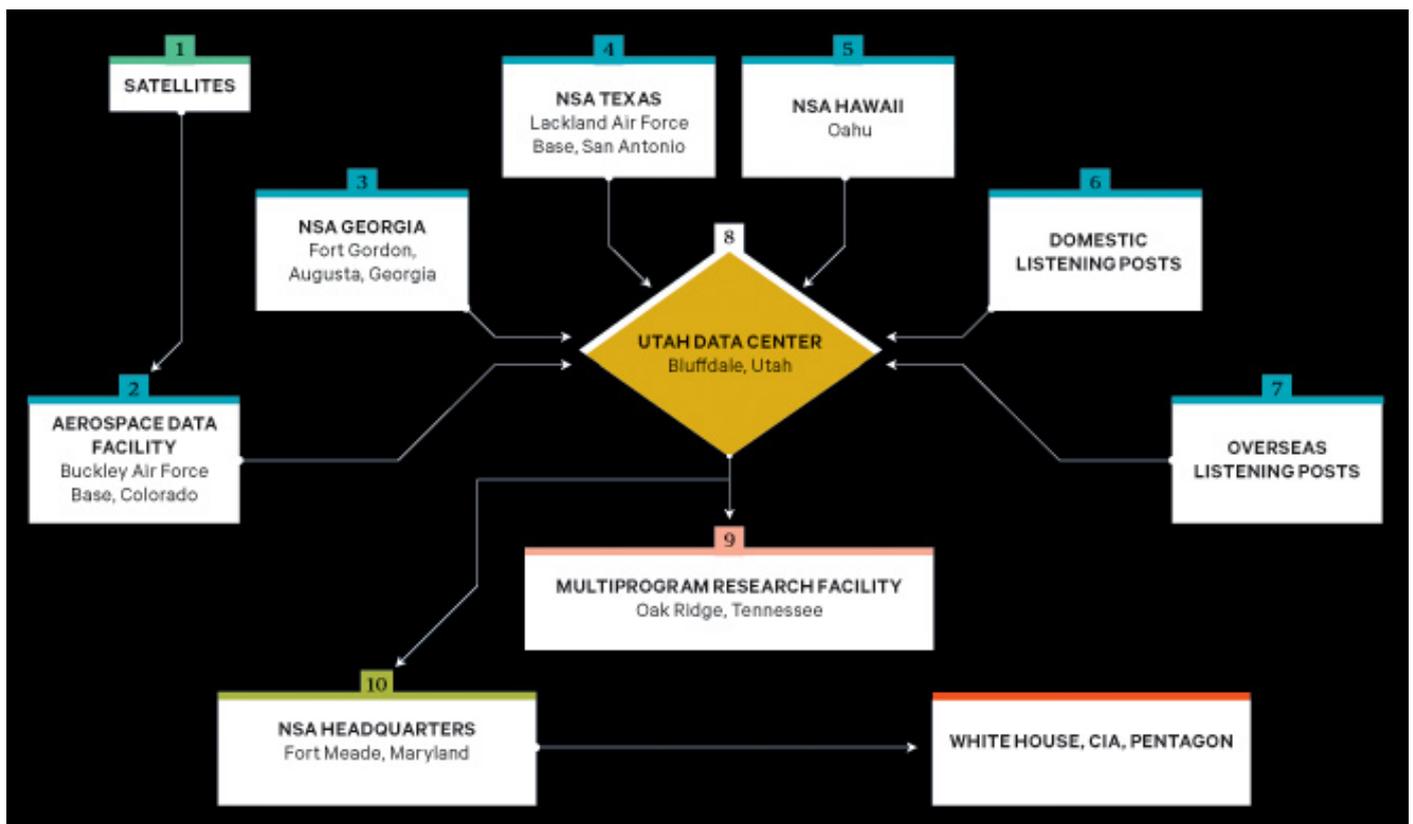
communications network, known as the Global Information Grid, to handle **yottabytes** (10^{24} bytes) of data. (A yottabyte is a septillion bytes—so large that no one has yet coined a term for the next higher magnitude.)

It needs that capacity because, according to a recent report by Cisco, global Internet traffic will quadruple from 2010 to 2015, reaching 966 exabytes per year. (A million exabytes equal a yottabyte.) In terms of scale, Eric Schmidt, Google’s former CEO, once estimated that the total of all human knowledge created from the dawn of man to 2003 totaled 5 exabytes. And the data flow shows no sign of slowing. In 2011 more than 2 billion of the world’s 6.9 billion people were connected to the Internet. By 2015, market research firm IDC estimates, there will be 2.7 billion users. Thus, the NSA’s need for a 1-million-square-foot data storehouse. Should the agency ever fill the Utah center with a yottabyte of information, it would be equal to about 500 quintillion (500,000,000,000,000,000,000) pages of text.

The data stored in Bluffdale will naturally go far beyond the world’s billions of public web pages. The NSA is more interested in the so-called invisible web, also known as the deep web or deepnet—data beyond the reach of the public. This includes password-protected data, US and foreign government communications, and noncommercial file-sharing between trusted peers. “The deep web contains government reports, databases, and other sources of information of high value to DOD and the intelligence community,” according to a 2010 Defense Science Board report. “Alternative tools are needed to find and index data in the deep web ... Stealing the classified secrets of a potential adversary is where the [intelligence] community is most comfortable.” With its new Utah Data Center, the NSA will at last have the technical capability to store, and rummage through, all those stolen secrets. The question, of course, is how the agency defines who is, and who is not, “a potential adversary.”

The NSA’S SPY NETWORK

Once it’s operational, the Utah Data Center will become, in effect, the NSA’s cloud. The center will be fed data collected by the agency’s eavesdropping satellites, overseas listening posts, and secret monitoring rooms in telecom facilities throughout the US. All that data will then be accessible to the NSA’s code breakers, data-miners, China analysts, counterterrorism specialists, and others working at its Fort Meade headquarters and around the world. Here’s how the data center appears to fit into the NSA’s global puzzle.—J.B.



1 GEOSTATIONARY SATELLITES

Four satellites positioned around the globe monitor frequencies carrying everything from walkie-talkies and cell phones in Libya to radar systems in North Korea. Onboard software acts as the first filter in the collection process, targeting only key regions, countries, cities, and phone numbers or email.

2 AEROSPACE DATA FACILITY, BUCKLEY AIR FORCE BASE, COLORADO

Intelligence collected from the geostationary satellites, as well as signals from other spacecraft and overseas listening posts, is relayed to this facility outside Denver. About 850 NSA employees track the satellites, transmit target information, and download the intelligence haul.

3 NSA GEORGIA, FORT GORDON, AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

Focuses on intercepts from Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. Codenamed Sweet Tea, the facility has been massively expanded and now consists of a 604,000-square-foot operations building for up to 4,000 intercept operators, analysts, and other specialists.

4 NSA TEXAS, LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, SAN ANTONIO

Focuses on intercepts from Latin America and, since 9/11, the Middle East and Europe. Some 2,000 workers staff the operation. The NSA recently completed a \$100 million renovation on a mega-data center here—a backup storage facility for the Utah Data Center.

5 NSA HAWAII, OAHU

Focuses on intercepts from Asia. Built to house an aircraft assembly plant during World War II, the 250,000-square-foot bunker is nicknamed the Hole. Like the other NSA operations centers, it has since been expanded: Its 2,700 employees now do their work aboveground from a new 234,000-square-foot facility.

6 DOMESTIC LISTENING POSTS

The NSA has long been free to eavesdrop on international satellite communications. But after 9/11, it installed taps in US telecom “switches,” gaining access to domestic traffic. An ex-NSA official says there are 10 to 20 such installations.

7 OVERSEAS LISTENING POSTS

According to a knowledgeable intelligence source, the NSA has installed taps on at least a dozen of the major overseas communications links, each capable of eavesdropping on information passing by at a high data rate.

8 UTAH DATA CENTER, BLUFFDALE, UTAH

At a million square feet, this \$2 billion digital storage facility outside Salt Lake City will be the centerpiece of the NSA’s cloud-based data strategy and essential in its plans for decrypting previously uncrackable documents.

9 MULTIPROGRAM RESEARCH FACILITY, OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE

Some 300 scientists and computer engineers with top security clearance toil away here, building the world’s fastest supercomputers and working on cryptanalytic applications and other secret projects.

10 NSA HEADQUARTERS, FORT MEADE, MARYLAND

Analysts here will access material stored at Bluffdale to prepare reports and recommendations that are sent to policy makers. To handle the increased data load, the NSA is also building an \$896 million supercomputer center here.

Before yottabytes of data from the deep web and elsewhere can begin piling up inside the servers of the NSA’s new center, they must be collected. To better accomplish that, the agency has undergone the largest building boom in its history, including installing secret electronic monitoring rooms in major US telecom facilities. Controlled by the NSA, these highly secured spaces are where the agency taps into the US communications networks, a practice that came to light during the Bush years but was never acknowledged by the agency. The broad outlines of the so-called warrantless-wiretapping program have long been exposed—how the NSA secretly and illegally bypassed the [Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court](#), which was supposed to oversee and authorize highly targeted domestic eavesdropping; how the program allowed wholesale monitoring of millions of American phone calls and email. In the wake of the program’s exposure, Congress passed the FISA Amendments Act of 2008, which largely made the practices legal. Telecoms that had agreed to participate in the illegal activity were granted

immunity from prosecution and lawsuits. What wasn't revealed until now, however, was the enormity of this ongoing domestic spying program.

For the first time, a former NSA official has gone on the record to describe the program, codenamed [Stellar Wind](#), in detail. William Binney was a senior NSA crypto-mathematician largely responsible for automating the agency's worldwide eavesdropping network. A tall man with strands of black hair across the front of his scalp and dark, determined eyes behind thick-rimmed glasses, the 68-year-old spent nearly four decades breaking codes and finding new ways to channel billions of private phone calls and email messages from around the world into the NSA's bulging databases. As chief and one of the two cofounders of the agency's Signals Intelligence Automation Research Center, Binney and his team designed much of the infrastructure that's still likely used to intercept international and foreign communications. He explains that the agency could have installed its tapping gear at the nation's cable landing stations—the more than two dozen sites on the periphery of the US where fiber-optic cables come ashore. If it had taken that route, the NSA would have been able to limit its eavesdropping to just international communications, which at the time was all that was allowed under US law. Instead it chose to put the wiretapping rooms at key junction points throughout the country—large, windowless buildings known as switches—thus gaining access to not just international communications but also to most of the domestic traffic flowing through the US. The network of intercept stations goes far beyond the single room in an AT&T building in San Francisco exposed by a whistle-blower in 2006. “I think there's 10 to 20 of them,” Binney says. “That's not just San Francisco; they have them in the middle of the country and also on the East Coast.”

The eavesdropping on Americans doesn't stop at the telecom switches. To capture satellite communications in and out of the US, the agency also monitors AT&T's powerful earth stations, satellite receivers in locations that include Roaring Creek and Salt Creek. Tucked away on a back road in rural Catawissa, Pennsylvania, Roaring Creek's three 105-foot dishes handle much of the country's communications to and from Europe and the Middle East. And on an isolated stretch of land in remote Arbuckle, California, three similar dishes at the company's Salt Creek station service the Pacific Rim and Asia.

The former NSA official held his thumb and forefinger close together: “We are that far from a turnkey [totalitarian](#) state.”

Binney left the NSA in late 2001, shortly after the agency launched its warrantless-wiretapping program. “They violated the Constitution setting it up,” he says bluntly. “But they didn't care. They were going to do it anyway, and they were going to crucify anyone who stood in the way. When they started violating the Constitution, I couldn't stay.” Binney says Stellar Wind was far larger than has been publicly disclosed and included not just eavesdropping on domestic phone calls but the inspection of domestic email. At the outset the program recorded 320 million calls a day, he says, which represented about 73 to 80 percent of the total volume of the agency's worldwide intercepts. The haul only grew from there. According to Binney—who has maintained close contact with agency employees until a few years ago—the taps in the secret rooms dotting the country are actually powered by highly sophisticated software programs that conduct “deep packet inspection,” examining Internet traffic as it passes through the 10-gigabit-per-second cables at the speed of light.

The software, created by a company called Narus that's now part of Boeing, is controlled remotely from NSA headquarters at Fort Meade in Maryland and searches US sources for target addresses, locations, countries, and phone numbers, as well as watch-listed names, keywords, and phrases in email. Any communication that arouses suspicion, especially those to or from the million or so people on agency watch lists, are automatically copied or recorded and then transmitted to the NSA.

The scope of surveillance expands from there, Binney says. Once a name is entered into the Narus database, all phone calls and other communications to and from that person are automatically routed to the NSA's recorders. “Anybody you want, route to a recorder,” Binney says. “If your number's in there? Routed and gets recorded.” He adds, “The Narus device allows you to take it all.” And when Bluffdale is completed, whatever is collected will be routed

there for storage and analysis.

According to Binney, one of the deepest secrets of the Stellar Wind program—again, never confirmed until now—was that the NSA gained warrantless access to AT&T's vast trove of domestic and international billing records, detailed information about who called whom in the US and around the world. As of 2007, AT&T had more than 2.8 trillion records housed in a database at its Florham Park, New Jersey, complex.

Verizon was also part of the program, Binney says, and that greatly expanded the volume of calls subject to the agency's domestic eavesdropping. "That multiplies the call rate by at least a factor of five," he says. "So you're over a billion and a half calls a day." (Spokespeople for Verizon and AT&T said their companies would not comment on matters of national security.) After he left the NSA, Binney suggested a system for monitoring people's communications according to how closely they are connected to an initial target. The further away from the target—say you're just an acquaintance of a friend of the target—the less the surveillance. But the agency rejected the idea, and, given the massive new storage facility in Utah, Binney suspects that it now simply collects everything. "The whole idea was, how do you manage 20 terabytes of intercept a minute?" he says. "The way we proposed was to distinguish between things you want and things you don't want." Instead, he adds, "they're storing everything they gather." And the agency is gathering as much as it can.

Once the communications are intercepted and stored, the data-mining begins. "You can watch everybody all the time with data-mining," Binney says. Everything a person does becomes charted on a graph, "financial transactions or travel or anything," he says. Thus, as data like bookstore receipts, bank statements, and commuter toll records flow in, the NSA is able to paint a more and more detailed picture of someone's life.

The NSA also has the ability to eavesdrop on phone calls directly and in real time. According to Adrienne J. Kinne, who worked both before and after 9/11 as a voice interceptor at the NSA facility in Georgia, in the wake of the World Trade Center attacks "basically all rules were thrown out the window, and they would use any excuse to justify a waiver to spy on Americans." Even journalists calling home from overseas were included. "A lot of time you could tell they were calling their families," she says, "incredibly intimate, personal conversations." Kinne found the act of eavesdropping on innocent fellow citizens personally distressing. "It's almost like going through and finding somebody's diary," she says. In secret listening rooms nationwide, NSA software examines every email, phone call, and tweet as they zip by.

But there is, of course, reason for anyone to be distressed about the practice. Once the door is open for the government to spy on US citizens, there are often great temptations to abuse that power for political purposes, as when Richard Nixon eavesdropped on his political enemies during Watergate and ordered the NSA to spy on antiwar protesters. Those and other abuses prompted Congress to enact prohibitions in the mid-1970s against domestic spying.

Before he gave up and left the NSA, Binney tried to persuade officials to create a more targeted system that could be authorized by a court. At the time, the agency had 72 hours to obtain a legal warrant, and Binney devised a method to computerize the system. "I had proposed that we automate the process of requesting a warrant and automate approval so we could manage a couple of million intercepts a day, rather than subvert the whole process." But such a system would have required close coordination with the courts, and NSA officials weren't interested in that, Binney says. Instead they continued to haul in data on a grand scale. Asked how many communications—"transactions," in NSA's lingo—the agency has intercepted since 9/11, Binney estimates the number at "between 15 and 20 trillion, the aggregate over 11 years."

When Barack Obama took office, Binney hoped the new administration might be open to reforming the program to address his constitutional concerns. He and another former senior NSA analyst, J. Kirk Wiebe, tried to bring the idea of an automated warrant-approval system to the attention of the Department of Justice's inspector general. They were given the brush-off. "They said, oh, OK, we can't comment," Binney says.

Sitting in a restaurant not far from NSA headquarters, the place where he spent nearly 40 years of his life, Binney held his thumb and forefinger close together. "We are, like, that far

from a turnkey totalitarian state,” he says.

There is still one technology preventing untrammelled government access to private digital data: strong encryption. Anyone—from terrorists and weapons dealers to corporations, financial institutions, and ordinary email senders—can use it to seal their messages, plans, photos, and documents in hardened data shells. For years, one of the hardest shells has been the Advanced Encryption Standard, one of several algorithms used by much of the world to encrypt data. Available in three different strengths—128 bits, 192 bits, and 256 bits—it’s incorporated in most commercial email programs and web browsers and is considered so strong that the NSA has even approved its use for top-secret US government communications. Most experts say that a so-called brute-force computer attack on the algorithm—trying one combination after another to unlock the encryption—would likely take longer than the age of the universe. For a 128-bit cipher, the number of trial-and-error attempts would be 340 undecillion (10^{36}).

Breaking into those complex mathematical shells like the AES is one of the key reasons for the construction going on in Bluffdale. That kind of cryptanalysis requires two major ingredients: super-fast computers to conduct brute-force attacks on encrypted messages and a massive number of those messages for the computers to analyze. The more messages from a given target, the more likely it is for the computers to detect telltale patterns, and Bluffdale will be able to hold a great many messages. “We questioned it one time,” says another source, a senior intelligence manager who was also involved with the planning. “Why were we building this NSA facility? And, boy, they rolled out all the old guys—the crypto guys.” According to the official, these experts told then-director of national intelligence Dennis Blair, “You’ve got to build this thing because we just don’t have the capability of doing the code-breaking.” It was a candid admission. In the long war between the code breakers and the code makers—the tens of thousands of cryptographers in the worldwide computer security industry—the code breakers were admitting defeat.

So the agency had one major ingredient—a massive data storage facility—under way.

Meanwhile, across the country in Tennessee, the government was working in utmost secrecy on the other vital element: the most powerful computer the world has ever known.

The plan was launched in 2004 as a modern-day Manhattan Project. Dubbed the [High Productivity Computing Systems program](#), its goal was to advance computer speed a thousandfold, creating a machine that could execute a quadrillion (10^{15}) operations a second, known as a petaflop—the computer equivalent of breaking the land speed record. And as with the Manhattan Project, the venue chosen for the supercomputing program was the town of Oak Ridge in eastern Tennessee, a rural area where sharp ridges give way to low, scattered hills, and the southwestward-flowing Clinch River bends sharply to the southeast. About 25 miles from Knoxville, it is the “secret city” where uranium-235 was extracted for the first atomic bomb. A sign near the exit read: WHAT YOU SEE HERE, WHAT YOU DO HERE, WHAT YOU HEAR HERE, WHEN YOU LEAVE HERE, LET IT STAY HERE. Today, not far from where that sign stood, Oak Ridge is home to the Department of Energy’s Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and it’s engaged in a new secret war. But this time, instead of a bomb of almost unimaginable power, the weapon is a computer of almost unimaginable speed.

In 2004, as part of the supercomputing program, the Department of Energy established its Oak Ridge Leadership Computing Facility for multiple agencies to join forces on the project. But in reality there would be two tracks, one unclassified, in which all of the scientific work would be public, and another top-secret, in which the NSA could pursue its own computer covertly. “For our purposes, they had to create a separate facility,” says a former senior NSA computer expert who worked on the project and is still associated with the agency. (He is one of three sources who described the program.) It was an expensive undertaking, but one the NSA was desperate to launch.

Known as the Multiprogram Research Facility, or Building 5300, the \$41 million, five-story, 214,000-square-foot structure was built on a plot of land on the lab’s East Campus and completed in 2006. Behind the brick walls and green-tinted windows, 318 scientists, computer

engineers, and other staff work in secret on the cryptanalytic applications of high-speed computing and other classified projects. The supercomputer center was named in honor of George R. Cotter, the NSA's now-retired chief scientist and head of its information technology program. Not that you'd know it. "There's no sign on the door," says the ex-NSA computer expert.

At the DOE's unclassified center at Oak Ridge, work progressed at a furious pace, although it was a one-way street when it came to cooperation with the closemouthed people in Building 5300. Nevertheless, the unclassified team had its Cray XT4 supercomputer upgraded to a [warehouse-sized XT5](#). Named Jaguar for its speed, it clocked in at 1.75 petaflops, officially becoming the world's fastest computer in 2009.

Meanwhile, over in Building 5300, the NSA succeeded in building an even faster supercomputer. "They made a big breakthrough," says another former senior intelligence official, who helped oversee the program. The NSA's machine was likely similar to the unclassified Jaguar, but it was much faster out of the gate, modified specifically for cryptanalysis and targeted against one or more specific algorithms, like the AES. In other words, they were moving from the research and development phase to actually attacking extremely difficult encryption systems. The code-breaking effort was up and running. The breakthrough was enormous, says the former official, and soon afterward the agency pulled the shade down tight on the project, even within the intelligence community and Congress. "Only the chairman and vice chairman and the two staff directors of each intelligence committee were told about it," he says. The reason? "They were thinking that this computing breakthrough was going to give them the ability to crack current public encryption."

In addition to giving the NSA access to a tremendous amount of Americans' personal data, such an advance would also open a window on a trove of foreign secrets. While today most sensitive communications use the strongest encryption, much of the older data stored by the NSA, including a great deal of what will be transferred to Bluffdale once the center is complete, is encrypted with more vulnerable ciphers. "Remember," says the former intelligence official, "a lot of foreign government stuff we've never been able to break is 128 or less. Break all that and you'll find out a lot more of what you didn't know—stuff we've already stored—so there's an enormous amount of information still in there."

The NSA believes it's on the verge of breaking a key encryption algorithm—opening up hoards of data.

That, he notes, is where the value of Bluffdale, and its mountains of long-stored data, will come in. What can't be broken today may be broken tomorrow. "Then you can see what they were saying in the past," he says. "By extrapolating the way they did business, it gives us an indication of how they may do things now." The danger, the former official says, is that it's not only foreign government information that is locked in weaker algorithms, it's also a great deal of personal domestic communications, such as Americans' email intercepted by the NSA in the past decade.

But first the supercomputer must break the encryption, and to do that, speed is everything. The faster the computer, the faster it can break codes. The Data Encryption Standard, the 56-bit predecessor to the AES, debuted in 1976 and lasted about 25 years. The AES made its first appearance in 2001 and is expected to remain strong and durable for at least a decade. But if the NSA has secretly built a computer that is considerably faster than machines in the unclassified arena, then the agency has a chance of breaking the AES in a much shorter time. And with Bluffdale in operation, the NSA will have the luxury of storing an ever-expanding archive of intercepts until that breakthrough comes along.

But despite its progress, the agency has not finished building at Oak Ridge, nor is it satisfied with breaking the petaflop barrier. Its next goal is to reach exaflop speed, one quintillion (10^{18}) operations a second, and eventually zettaflop (10^{21}) and yottaflop.

These goals have considerable support in Congress. Last November a bipartisan group of 24 senators sent a letter to President Obama urging him to approve continued funding through 2013 for the Department of Energy's exascale computing initiative (the NSA's budget requests

are classified). They cited the necessity to keep up with and surpass China and Japan. “The race is on to develop exascale computing capabilities,” the senators noted. The reason was clear: By late 2011 the Jaguar (now with a peak speed of 2.33 petaflops) ranked third behind Japan’s “K Computer,” with an impressive 10.51 petaflops, and the Chinese Tianhe-1A system, with 2.57 petaflops.

But the real competition will take place in the classified realm. To secretly develop the new exaflop (or higher) machine by 2018, the NSA has proposed constructing two connecting buildings, totaling 260,000 square feet, near its current facility on the East Campus of Oak Ridge. Called the Multiprogram Computational Data Center, the buildings will be low and wide like giant warehouses, a design necessary for the dozens of computer cabinets that will compose an exaflop-scale machine, possibly arranged in a cluster to minimize the distance between circuits. According to a presentation delivered to DOE employees in 2009, it will be an “unassuming facility with limited view from roads,” in keeping with the NSA’s desire for secrecy. And it will have an extraordinary appetite for electricity, eventually using about 200 megawatts, enough to power 200,000 homes. The computer will also produce a gargantuan amount of heat, requiring 60,000 tons of cooling equipment, the same amount that was needed to serve both of the World Trade Center towers.

In the meantime Cray is working on the next step for the NSA, funded in part by a \$250 million contract with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. It’s a massively parallel supercomputer called Cascade, a prototype of which is due at the end of 2012. Its development will run largely in parallel with the unclassified effort for the DOE and other partner agencies. That project, due in 2013, will upgrade the Jaguar XT5 into an XK6, codenamed Titan, upping its speed to 10 to 20 petaflops.

Yottabytes and exaflops, septillions and undecillions—the race for computing speed and data storage goes on. In his 1941 story “[The Library of Babel](#),” Jorge Luis Borges imagined a collection of information where the entire world’s knowledge is stored but barely a single word is understood. In Bluffdale the NSA is constructing a library on a scale that even Borges might not have contemplated. And to hear the masters of the agency tell it, it’s only a matter of time until every word is illuminated.

James Bamford (washwriter@gmail.com) is the author of *The Shadow Factory: The Ultra-Secret NSA from 9/11 to the Eavesdropping on America*.

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James Bamford is the author of the **The Shadow Factory: the Ultra-Secret NSA from 9/11 to the Eavesdropping on America.**

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Best Community

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Mark Newell · a year ago

Not very long ago..... I actually believed that I would be willing to sacrifice a bit of freedom for security. I believed that a guard or cop at the entrance to my community, checking I.D. would be better than car loads of gang members roaming through creating havoc. I once laughed at those who mistrusted the government and prepared for survival, should things go dsideways. I supported efforts by our so called "leaders" to monitor society, in search for the ever present evil. Not long ago..... I slept.

I just finished building my fourth M-4. I just finished loading my 3rd case of 5.56. Today my Saiga 12 arrives. My wife has canned enough food to feed a city. I have taken great steps at a great cost to ensure that I am fully self reliant under any circumstance. I am awake.

Anyone who really believes that the simple act of discussing this on the internet, has not steered electronic ears in your direction.... is sound asleep and I understand that. Someone eluded to it and I repeat this truth. In 1935 Germany... many citizens felt uneasy and sensed that doom was on the way. More laughed such talk off and continued to find reasons to smile and enjoy the day. We all know the end of that story.

The new I Pad was released!!!! Snooky had a meltdown! My Mac Pro is awesome!!! These trinkets that keep us giggling and focused on nothing.... this addiction to instant gratification..... this will be our downfall.

There's a storm brewing.

1258 ^ | 22 v Share >



Andrew Jansen → Mark Newell · a year ago

Mark, you are right, there is a storm brewing. A serious one, a very serious one. I don't know if you favor Ron Paul's views or some of them, but his crazy is a helluva lot better than Obama's and the other Reptards ones. Just saying.

321 ^ | 8 v Share >



BillRind → Andrew Jansen · a year ago

this place needs to be burned down or dismantled by the same ones who erected it. if we Americans allow this to continue, it will be to our detriment. this entire war on terror is a fraud of the highest order and is high crimes being perpetrated on the Americans people for control.

301 ^ | 4 v Share >



Mike Adams → BillRind · a year ago

I am sure that everyone who died in the planes and the towers on 9-1-

1 were absolutely convinced that the whole thingy was just a hoax and some director would come in and yell "CUT" at the last second so they wouldn't all die a burning, crushing, horrible, death. I guess you were there director and you were just a little late that day. Damn that old watch anyway!

21 ^ | 30 v Share >



[starchild](#) → Mike Adams · a year ago

Mike - So under what circumstances do you think it's okay for government to initiate force or commit fraud, and why?

96 ^ | 2 v Share >



[arlenejohnson](#) → Mike Adams · a year ago

There were no people on those planes on 9/11. Indeed 2 of those planes didn't even fly that day. I would list all of the articles that I have published proving that 9/11 was America's version of the Reichstag fire, but will simply direct you to <http://www.truedemocracy.net/t...> instead in hope that you will also look through the editions that I have published since December 2001 to see all of the other articles that I have also published on that inside job.

Then, if you want to know about the NSA, read <http://www.truedemocracy.net/t...> because the NSA is a shadow government agency just as the CIA and FBI are not to mention many of the other agencies and organizations that exist in our country.

Peace,

Arlene Johnson
Publisher/Author

84 ^ | 30 v Share >



[TurtleShroom](#) → arlenejohnson · a year ago

My gosh. How can you fabricate real people with existing families? How can you fabricate every last voice, the thousands of eyewitnesses that saw the planes, the air traffic controllers that watched this plane veer correctly, the pilots that got in the plane, the boarding data, the ticket entries...

Isn't it just easier to say that 9/11 is 100% real, and that the government just ignored prior warnings to get a casus belli?

Why assume it's an inside job when it could just as easily be a real threat that the government deliberately ignored to get an excuse?

Occam's Razor, anyone?

170 ^ | 9 v Share >



[Adam2323](#) → arlenejohnson · a year ago

I guess all the families of the survivors were faked. It's disgusting how you cheapen that event by effectively calling these family members liars.

And for those idiots who said no planes hit the tower, were the witnesses faked too? A friend of a friend watched a plane smack into a tower. Maybe she worked for Bush or a retinal projector put the image into her eyes, or maybe she was lying to get attention. Or maybe, crazy as this sounds, she really did see a plane hit the tower. And perhaps there really are Islamic radicals who hate the US enough to do this.

128 ^ | 7 v Share >



[bruceifer](#) → arlenejohnson · a year ago

get a f-inf life i guess that you think that nobody was it the buildings eater. tell that to their survivors bitch

73 ^ | 7 v Share >



[Jay Beswick](#) → arlenejohnson · a year ago

I think the enemy took credit for the attack! While I am concerned about the Stellar Wind facility, I do marvel at conspiracy theorist, so much so that for 15 years I have used the alias or "handle" of fincenMIB, F.I.N.C.E.N. a DOJ agency blamed for the humorous black helicopters and MIB for the movie that used the same humor. It reminds me of the FLDS that believe we never walked on the moon, yet the former leader Rulon Jeffs was on the board of directors to Hydrapak who made the ill fated o-rings that failed. Some have wondered if misinformation by conspiracy theorist have actually led to a general disinterest by the public, assuming most alarmist are crackpots too! In 911 real people died, real FBI agents warned of a crisis potential and real agencies did not assess that threat seriously. The Jewish holocaust was real too! Aliens & UFO's! Well I'll let the rest debate that....

27 ^ | 1 v Share >



[watchdogbill](#) → arlenejohnson · a year ago

What about that one that was stuffed into the PA field? No people on that one either? How do you account for that plane? I do believe the one that hit the Pentagon was not even the aircraft they claimed it was

27 ^ | 1 v Share >



[belleofliberty](#) → arlenejohnson · a year ago

These other guys can continue smokin' whatever they want...but, as for me...I'm with you...just as a growing number of people are. One need only look at the mountain of evidence to see, what you speak of is TRUE!

I really feel bitter toward those,who feel compelled to go for the jugular when the truth is the ONLY thing you're trvina to expose them to!...Like

...and the people who are still trying to expose them...
the ignorant B's who've dismissed your commentary. If it weren't for the fact that it affects our entire nation...in fact, the entire world...I'd be totally inclined to leave them behind for the rats to devour! Their complacency really pisses me off! Can you tell?

No worries, though! They'll figure it out one of these days...I'm just GLAD it's in my nature to question EVERYTHING and to trust NO ONE! We're free! They're...well...they're dumb sheep!

40 ^ | 6 v Share >



[ShaddsSoulmate](#) → [arlenejohnson](#) · a year ago

I haven't even gone to your website and I already agree with you, Arlene, that there were no people on those planes because NO PLANES hit the towers! Some kind of missiles were used. The footage the mainstream media showed the world of the "planes" hitting the towers had already been altered. Many NYC observers on the ground on 9/11 told reporters they saw "NO PLANES!" I have done intensive research myself on this subject, so this is not crazy at all! And yes, definitely the NSA is part of the "shadow gov't." Thanks for being courageous and telling the truth!

52 ^ | 14 v Share >



[arlenejohnson](#) → [Mike Adams](#) · a year ago

There were no passengers on those planes on 9/11. Indeed, 2 of those planes didn't even fly that day. Instead of my listing all of the articles that I have published exposing that 9/11 was an inside job, I will simply direct you to <http://www.truedemocracy.net/n...> in hope that you will continue to read the articles that I published after that edition which I published in December 2001.

Then, to know what the NSA really is, log onto <http://www.truedemocracy.net/t...> since the NSA is a shadow government agency.

Peace,

Arlene Johnson
Publisher/Author

<http://www.truedemocracy.net>

To access the rest of my work, click on the icon that says Magazine.

26 ^ | 12 v Share >



[classicfit](#) → [arlenejohnson](#) · a year ago

After the Nazi death camps were captured by the Allies, Eisenhower ordered them to be photographed and documented because he knew

that at some point in the future, some idiot deniers would attempt to argue against the obvious. Get the parallel here, Ms. Johnson? Now go put your tinfoil hat back on and shut up. You're making a fool of yourself.

115 ^ | 3 v Share >



[LSKY](#) → [arlenejohnson](#) · a year ago

There is a place for people like you, Arlene - is called an insane asylum. What in the h do you publish and/or author? It can't be fit to wrap fish guts in.

64 ^ | 3 v Share >



[geepers](#) → [arlenejohnson](#) · a year ago

Over half the American population knows that 9/11 did not happen the "official bush conspiracy" way. The media is totally complicit also, as their little weird freak story was posted by about noon that day and has never changed.

If someone has complete irrefutable EVIDENCE based on FACT (that can be completely verified) that what happened that day was how Bush said it happened...Please submit that evidence. Otherwise, these war criminals should be rounded up, and there are plenty of them.

Let's get the media for its complicity. Especially the BBC that was reporting the collapse of building 7 before it collapsed!

Anyone that says it happens like bush says, are simply lying.

70 ^ | 6 v Share >



[geepers](#) → [arlenejohnson](#) · a year ago

Also Arlene, you can't fool us. The 'no planes' and no people garbage has been circulated to keep non-thinking Americans believing that the "truth" movement is bogus and based on "conspiracy" whacko junk, when physicists, engineers, and other professionals have shown why the planes hitting could not have been what brought these down. There were planes all right.

48 ^ | 4 v Share >



[ch1nish](#) → [BillRind](#) · a year ago

Only if you have a lot to hide. Maybe you should leave. A bunch of other countries do this too.

2 ^ | 8 v Share >



[Ricardo Santos](#) → [ch1nish](#) · a year ago

Your logic is flawed. You are basically saying two things:

- Is ok to allow A to do wrong because B also do wrong.
- Is ok to allow A to spy on you and treat you like a criminal because you

got nothing to hide.

Sorry, but that doesn't fly. Is the responsibility of the citizens of each country to keep their government in check. The government of China is the concern of the Chinese people. Just as the government of the USA is the concern of the people of the USA.

When a government breaks its constitution, it becomes illegitimate.

Law is the power of government.

Law is the consent of the governed to be govern.

The constitution is the agreement or consent.

When the agreement is broken by government there is no moral reason AT ALL for their citizens to obey government rules. As the moment they

[see more](#)

125 ^ | 1 v Share >



[LibertarianBob](#) → ch1nish · a year ago

We are not "a bunch of other countries", ch1nish. Our founding fathers envisioned something different than other countries. It's called freedom. If you give up liberty for security you deserve neither.

122 ^ | 1 v Share >



[Jay Beswick](#) → LibertarianBob · a year ago

Amen!

NSA is already harvesting emails and internet searches. What does any private citizen really know?

24 ^ | v Share >



[jshirts](#) → LibertarianBob · a year ago

Actually, this is exactly what our founding fathers wanted; a country ruled by the "responsible men" in which the population must be manipulated and controlled to serve the needs of their wealthy masters.

25 ^ | 3 v Share >



[Dave](#) → ch1nish · a year ago

Even if you have nothing to hide, do you like being treated as if you do have something to hide? Think of it, the Government will have access to any intimate conversation, email, or conversation you have ever had with others. They will know where you have went on vacation, where you shop, and everything else about you! All this because some terrorists from a foreign land has attacked on our own soil. Now we are treated as possible terrorists.

95 ^ | 1 v Share >



[Jay Beswick](#) → Dave · a year ago

As an Independent I trust neither side to far. Obama has used Presidential Powers to a point that it is scary! Now NSA's Bluffdale operation in Utah, would be equally scary under a Mitt Romney occupation, if he to exercised Presidential powers. Bluffdale is home to the AUB or Allred Fundamentalist polygamist. A bias to ignore that religious past an example of selective tolerance. I feel less safe, if it were Obama, but its to much power when used on U.S. soil, to monitor U.S. citizens. I have been to Bluffdale, I have lived in Utah, and I have seen the governments abuse of power and this makes me very nervous.

27 ^ | 1 v Share ›



[LEE HANSON](#) → ch1nish · a year ago

NWO---WAKE UP NOW!!!!

23 ^ | 2 v Share ›



[David Wyatt](#) → Andrew Jansen · a year ago

Andrew its good that you agree, but you too need more focus. STOP picking sides, stop being a dem stop being a rep and start being intelligent. The ONLY reason RP has to run under another candidacy is because the powers that be illegally lock debates to the 2 parties. If you arent one of them you arent allowed any real coverage or legitimacy. In fact its the 2 party system that is helping keep America in a holding pattern. Even with a "bipartisan effort" there is really no progress.

If romney wins we are fucked, he is the worst puppet of them all, he will be a slow minded general in office and is truly a very egotistical and out of touch individual.

If santorum wins we will have daily bible study, or at least thats how pathetic he seems on stage, he should quit and go run a televangelist show somewhere down south.

If Ron Paul wins it will be our only slim chance to get things turned around and moving in the right direction. That being said if Ron Paul wins and acts like all the other puppets since 1963 I will truly have lost all hope in America and honestly and truthfully consider leaving the country.

[see more](#)

144 ^ | 5 v Share ›



[me1900](#) → David Wyatt · a year ago

stop picking sides too!

15 ^ | 1 v Share ›



[LibertarianBob](#) → David Wyatt · a year ago

David, what are your feelings on the Libertarian Party? Gary Johnson is

vieing for the presidential spot. He is is much, if not more, libertarian than RP (although I truel;y like RP, I have to maintain my "L" voter registration as I am a candidate for Ohio State Rep this year).

Thoughts?

4 ^ | v Share >



[unbound55](#) → LibertarianBob · a year ago

While there are some good aspects to the Libertarian Party (e.g. stances on abortion and privacy), overall, they are very naive on too many issues.

They tend to focus on an open market (i.e. free and competitive market) solving many problems, but anyone who is familiar with how open markets work understands that those types of markets don't really exist anymore. You need more than a couple or even a handful of companies selling identical products to constitute actual competition.

Similarly, anyone that understands what is happening with the health insurance industry (and lack of functional competition) understands that the government absolutely needs to be more involved and that a free market approach to health insurance has already shown itself to be a failure (about \$0.95 of every dollar collected by health insurance companies used to be spent on health care for individuals in the 80s...that figure is now about \$0.80 of every dollar and continuing to decline in the name of profit).

[see more](#)

30 ^ | 4 v Share >



[nmk24](#) → LibertarianBob · a year ago

I too live in Ohio. I am about to graduate. If you would need any help with your campaign, I would be more than willing to help.

6 ^ | 1 v Share >



[panjok2](#) → Andrew Jansen · a year ago

Andrew, I think you might have been caught up in the whole mess as many others have! The reason I say this is because you think Ron Paul's ideas are crazy! The truth is that for so long our politicians have been steering us towards crazier and even more cazier things! They now have the right to take any citizen they think is a threat and put them away... for ever... without a lawyer and no key to get out! The mere fact that this article is telling us of a super computer that is basically hacking U.S. citizens emails! All this tells me that our politicians have been doing such crazy things for so long that when someone comes along with simple ideas....we all think it is crazy! Ron Paul's ideas aren't crazy at all! They have twisted everyone's perception of what reality is and what crazy is! Thank you for supporting Ron Paul but please realize his ideas aren't radical at all! What we have now is radical!

Also please tell me this if they can build a computer that can do all this then

also please tell me this....if they can build a computer that can do all this...then why can't they build one that would rig an election? the answer is THEY CAN! I will be writing Ron Paul in if he doesn't get the GOP nomination! you should too!

35 ^ | v Share >



[watchdogbill](#) → panjok2 · a year ago

It's hard for the average person that has always trusted the media to believe that they are all on the wrong side. Actually, if this were really still America, we would have FCC void their licenses as they (most all) have violated their oath by being extremely and openly biased. People are like sheep, easily led by the sly and cunning deceivers on both sides of the aisle.

You are correct, media, DemonRats and Republicans have made Ron Paul out to be a nut case because they fear anyone that will upset their GODD OL'BOY network!

How many will ever vote for a black man now after this side show? I supported cain but almost everyone universally said the same thing, "I'll never make that mistake again"! And that because of the way Obama has both played the race card and proven himself to be an outright, undeniable RACIST himself!

I feel very sorry for the lemmings because they cannot discern right from wrong and wouldn't be able to spot a liar and deceiver if they fell over one. Jim Jones knew all about them! Things went his way until one Congressman smelled a rat!

America will never be the same, one way or the other!

Obama and his gang behind him, the really BIGmoney people under cover, have played this well, they picked a time when Americans have been dumbed down and have become lethargic girly-men. This nonsense could NEVER have happened even 40 years ago!~

25 ^ | 2 v Share >



[BenjaminF](#) → watchdogbill · a year ago

CLASSIC EDUCATED US DOLTS I CALL THEM LATENT INTELLECTUALS...EDUCATED BY FAUX NEWS THE GREAT CREATOR OF EMPOWERED IDIOTS WHO FLUNKED OUT OF HS AND NOW WANT TO EDUCATE ERR UM PARROT THE PATRIOTIC HORSE PUCKY THEY MEMORIZE FROM ROVE MN MURDOCH YHE 2 EVIL DEMONS IN USA --TRAITORS THUGS N PUNKS....SHOULD BE IN JAIL..

10 ^ | v Share >



[ch1nish](#) → panjok2 · a year ago

Wrong. All GOP are crazy scum

18 ^ | 3 v Share >



[terrvertta_ism](#) → Andrew Jansen · a year ago



yes I too am in favor of Ron Paul, So many instructors/professors have his Name on their vehicles at the college. See intelligent people are the ones backing up Ron, so I don't think that he will win.
This country voted for 2 Bush's! That shows you were this country is at. I voted for Nader not Obama. OOH... he is an idiot who hasn't done a damn thing. I doubt that he killed Ole'Ben Laden, he is too close to the Bushes family. They Probably are funding him some place like the mansion they said they got him from.
You with the damn ego of our military that they would be carrying his head on a stick singing "ding dong the witch is dead. C'mon are we to believe that they could not even get some big glossy photos, cell phone pictures? NADA (nothing) ? Y
ou betcha bottom dollar!

24 ^ | 1 v Share ›



[usedtobesupermom](#) → [terryterra_ism](#) · a year ago

I voted for Nader too. It would be great if it was Paul / Nader or Paul / Kucinich-it would be a good balance.

20 ^ | v Share ›



[Rhetorikol](#) → [usedtobesupermom](#) · a year ago

Nader and Ron respect each other's differences, this is why they don't run together yet support each other. I worked on Nader's presidential campaign in 2008, it was a big eye opener and one of the greatest tragedies to see how closed people were to a third party candidate. It's sad the modern state of affairs.

5 ^ | v Share ›



[usedtobesupermom](#) → [Rhetorikol](#) · a year ago

I also helped campaign for him in the 2008 election. I had to do it from home using my computer & phone- but I did what I could. You got to meet Ralph Nader? Awesome if you did. He's done so much for us- & little by little they have tried to undo everything that he & his Raiders fought so hard for.

1 ^ | v Share ›



[tazdelaney](#) → [Andrew Jansen](#) · a year ago

i'm truly sorry to have to now say that... i once thought the same of ron paul, though always preferred the last decent man in congress, dennis kucinich, now out of office due to GOP redistricting that pitted him against the also very popular lady rep next to his region... all wife and i knew of that we very much disapproved of paul was his having worked to bet the ERA and his fight against women's reproductive rights... but then it all started coming out into the light... the viciously racist newsletters he then stupidly knowing a thing about... and his hatred of gays

11 ^ | 3 v Share ›



[watchdogbill](#) → tazdelaney · a year ago

Dennis Kucinich...isn't he the air head weasel that demeaned and insulted our fighting men? He ignores his own incredibly anti-American President while filing for impeachment of Bush?

If you think Kucinich is a good man because he went after Bush...you are seriously mistaken. People like him (Kucinich) are the problem with America, not the solution. The proof of that? Obama has committed more impeachable acts than anyone in American history, but the little weasel is quiet about his own brood of snakes. A rat is a rat even if he did one thing you approved of.

Reproductive rights?...close the legs! Killing babies is murder in God's eyes.

As far as I could tell, Ron Paul does not HATE gays. He refuses to condone their lifestyle and their intense endeavour to destroy the American family with absurdly destructive "gay rights".

Ron Paul expresses what the Bible states, "love the sinner, hate the sin" that doesn't mean HATE the sinner, but it also conversely does not mean that we are to allow them to run over us and change the order that God created, spreading a deviant behavior they want to justify. I have

[see more](#)

41 ^ | 6 v Share >



[tazdelaney](#) → watchdogbill · a year ago

well, even the vicious mass-murderer of 'indians' george washington said when retiring that, quote, "a democratic society cannot long exist in the presence of a standing army." 235 years of standing army ago... and as the genocidal 'indian wars' only officially ended in 1900 when all but one million of the estimated 15 million who lived here prior to the arrival of us good white 'christians' invaded in 1492... and those put into concentration camps claled 'reservations.' of 235 years US history, 200 have been endless wars!

and you can only call the other 35 peace if you consider that the backing of such vicious tyrants as the following can be called 'peaceable'...

despite it being opposed by 63% of americans & 80% of spaiards, the USG backed fascist franco 1935-1977; overthrew the new non-theocratic democracy of iran to preserve BP Oil monopoly there the installed the brutal shah into 1978; hired an assassin for CIA name of saddam hussein back 1959 then installed him into power, trained his torturing secret police at fort benning's notorious 'school of the

[see more](#)

80 ^ | 1 v Share >



[Han van der Heide](#) → tazdelaney · a year ago

I read that book 'Luz is a rocket' as pdf. I love how it was copyright

 I read that book, war is a racket as put. (I sure hope it was copyright free). The guy was really on to something and I agree it should be mandatory reading material (perhaps an audio book is in order as some of the US recruits are illiterate)

Edit: hot d@mn, you sure stirred up a hornests nest. Can't we all get along :p

8 ^ | v Share ›



tazdelaney → Han van der Heide · a year ago

yes, free PDF i've issued far&wide and shd've given link to...

yes, and they aren't alone at all... the decline in quality of US 'educational system' is shocking. consider that a 2007-8 US DoEd study of senior year students found that in actuality, just 68 pages of history truly read by the average grad... hence, total history read in all of school to that point perhaps 350pgs? and these who understand virtually zero background of issues around them are seen as capable of reasoning who they should vote for?

9% didn't know even where the US of A is on a map without names!
32% ditto re UK! over 80%, after all these TV-war decades haven't a clue where iraq-afpak-vietnam-yemen are. only 47% believe in evolution or even who the fuck darin was... that is half what it was in 197 and half what is now the case in china!

perhaps the most shocking is that the average american's *working* vocabulary of 1950 was 4550 words. now down to just 1570 last i read (harper's index of about 2003) now get this. famous koko the gorilla who

[see more](#)

15 ^ | v Share ›



BenjaminF → tazdelaney · a year ago

Taz- I would have to say that few people in one rant-not fair to I CANT Call it a rant actually, it was simply an enormously long reply which was probably the best history brief I have ever heard listing virtually every foreign policy blunder that has blown up in our faces and is the actual face of what went wrong when Truman misguidedly created the NSA and then CIA when the Roswell incident forced his hand.

He wrote an op-ed a year after Kennedy got Sonny Corleoned saying he had only created the CIA as a temporary solution to problems related to issues he needed addressed and NEVER EVER meant them to become a virtual 4th branch of government operating with impunity to laws and the President's will...and course the attempt to dissolve said CIA a year before the op-ed in NY times by Truman (I mean he pretty well tells us it was the CIA no with the op-ed or at least says he thinks so) at the Dallas Book Depository by 2 guys from the grassy knoll and either an explosive out of the dash or one of the secret service agents

that were "off duty"-Kennedy's entire detail was replaced in Dallas, Nixon, Bush and course LBJ were all in Dallas the day this occurred and

[see more](#)

11 ^ | 1 v Share ›



[Martin Rees](#) → tazdelaney · a year ago

Finest history lesson I've ever read, Taz. Not much wrong with that at all and it reveals the total hypocrisy at work from it's founding to its recent past for the USA in devastating detail. What the Brits, French & Spanish started, the new USA just carried it on.

Your bit about the homeless veterans is familiar for those that fought in the Falklands. Apparently, more Falklands veterans have now committed suicide since the war than were killed in it! I imagine the same thing's happening in the US.

5 ^ | v Share ›



[sukijones](#) → tazdelaney · a year ago

TAZ - Geez... Absolutely one of the best posts/history briefs (to borrow Benjamin's description below) I have ever been privileged to read!

Serendipity at the right time... I very seldom come here because I have a subscription to this mag - but I was checking to see if this piece was online so I could send the link to a friend. DemocracyNow just did the Part 2 of the interview with Drake and Radack. Do you write elsewhere/for a living? p.s. will you marry me? :)

4 ^ | v Share ›



[watchdogbill](#) → tazdelaney · a year ago

Can you aim me where I can find more details about Washington being a "MASS" Indian Killer. I thought I knew his history right from the beginning through the French & Indian thing.

4 ^ | v Share ›



[watchdogbill](#) → tazdelaney · a year ago

Very interesting, thanks for takling this much time. I am going to re-read this again. Indeed, America has had a history of backing and supporting goovermin's we should not have been involved in. Obama attacked Bush for doing this (but the reality is that he has done EXACTLY what he blamed Bush for only much worse. He took sides with the Muslim Bortherhood and they are notorious enemies of ours. Involment in foreign nations politics has happened all too often in history) and yes, I believe wars are planned before they are started and that if we put the family and the men who decide to war, right up front, we would see less of that horror. People like me have had to do their war'ing for them while they sit back and make so-called "hard decisions", yea right! Compared to what?

Ron Paul would stop that and I believe he really will do what he says.

BTW, Schwatrkopf lied to Congress and America when he said Saddam did not use chemicals on our troops. He lost my respect because they apparently threatened him to say that or else. He foresaked his fighting men! This is what government does and THAT is why we need to throw out all of the bums and start over again with our

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7 ^ | 2 v Share >



[tazdelaney](#) → watchdogbill · a year ago

i so admire what no less than julius caesar had to say to his men, that civilian casualties are atrocities and that none should fight for a coward won't risk life at the front beside them. had i my way, that would simply be law henceforth. and i also think that it is clear & obvious that ANY GOVERNMENT THAT POSSESSES A SINGLE WEAPON OF MASS CIVILIAN DEATH IS A *ROGUE TERROR STATE* MUST BE EMBARGOED, BLOCKADED, OVERTHROWN, DISARMED & DISARMED THEREAFTER as germany/japan rightly were at that war's end.

of note that that war lasted just 4 years for us. since then, the praetorians and moneymen have wanted endless wars; none of which peoples have done a damn thing to the american people; each of which based entirely upon lies; all being essentially 'unwinnable.' i mean, what does the word 'victory' even mean in the context of iraq or afpak-yemen, et alia? but hey, there's bucks in every body bag... regardless how small the body inside it is, right?

as a red lefty rebel all my life and longer... it may seem odd in my that i

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