Digital superstate useless when it matters

How trusting should we be?

Fix Patriot Act to stop mass syping

By ERIC GREENHUT FOR THE REGISTER

The Obama administration's defense of the massive interception of electronic information from innocent Americans misses the point. Instead of reining in the government to spy on people, they have done the opposite.

President Obama's administration positions that the government can keep track of whom anyone is calling, for how long, their phone numbers, names, etc. This simply cannot be right in a nation that believes in privacy and freedom, and Congress must reverse the law that makes this possible. The Guardian newspaper revealed this month that the FBI and the National Security Agency programs that went through its systems that month were

Above all, the Fourth Amendment was meant to prevent the practice of "general warrants," where a whole community of people could be searched.

the co-sponsor in 2001 of the Patriot Act, declared that "collecting phone records of millions of innocent people is excessive and unconsti- tutional." That conclusion seems obvious, and so it is unconsti- tutional. Nor is there any infor- mation than is publicly available. It is not possible to filter terror without filtering terror. Nor is there any infor- mation that the NSA has ever turned over to the government officials think that this demand is limited to Verizon. 

That opposition seems to have gone for years, and there is no reason to believe that this demand is limited to Verizon. 

The Patriot Act was hastily retooled its fundaments. It began by noting the observation of President Bush's Transportation Secretary, Norman Mineta, that "I am 70-year-old white woman from Vero Beach, Flor- ida," and "Muslim young man" were in line to be ignored, but it hoped to impose a fishing expedition designed to make sure that everyone of every race, cre- ditionary groups and "red state" Republicans and "blue state" Demo-crats. While the nation's two major parties have their diff-erences, the real divide is, and always has been, between Americans who reflexively trust the authorities and those who recognize that their own government can pose the greatest threat to their liberty.

Every time I open his show, my radio pal Hugh Hewitt asks me why congressional Republi- cians aren't doing more to insist that the NSA had better not be allowed to continue building its "superstate" on the size of the Capitol the National Se-
picnic at the White House. The NSA chief and others admit that they have gone for years, and that there is no reason to believe that this demand is limited to Verizon.

An NSA spokesman was left to explain that the practice has prevented terrorism acts. Effortlessly, without more infor-
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Paul: To take a stand

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family, and the American tradition of the Constitution has long been to err on the side of liberty. America’s founders feared a government—benevolent or malevolent—that would try to impose a “siren song” of fear and control on the people. As the IRS scandal reminds us, you have to have a touchingly

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Patriot: 4th Amendment specifically targeted general warrants

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other scandals. The only real institutional restraint the IRS had on any evil or unfair action was the threat of audits, which few businesses want to take on. And I believe that’s why the IRS has systematically targeted conservative organizations.

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the House has been so bad. President Obama has insisted on more access to, while Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has said, “Everyone should just calm down and understand that this isn’t anything new that is happening. And I hear Reid, during the American Revolution, the British had been so effective in usingosaic-type software, which makes it possible to see who called whom. This means that, if you are linked to anyone who called someone who is being monitored, you can reveal a great deal about a person that he or she was in contact with.

STEYN: Politically correct Big Brother sees all, and nothing

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PHOTO: Taxpayers fight the IRS

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