

# Europe worried about U.S. spying

13<sup>th</sup> June, 2013



The European Union (EU) is worried about a top-secret American surveillance program that has spied on its

citizens. "Surveillance" means looking at the daily actions of spies and criminals. EU officials are angry that the program (called PRISM) spied on normal EU citizens. The company that operates PRISM accessed millions of e-mails and personal data from Google, Facebook, Apple and other e-mail providers. EU spokesman Tonio Borg said the EU wants the USA to promise it will respect the rights of European citizens. He said the USA must not look at the personal information of Europeans. He is angry because US laws say PRISM cannot spy on Americans, unless they are possible terrorists.

PRISM has the power to get the emails and phone records of non-US nationals. It can also tap into voice chat, videos and social networking details. A reporter from Britain's "The Guardian" newspaper said PRISM workers could access anyone's emails or phone calls at any time. Dutch lawmaker Sophia Veld said: "500 million Europeans were shocked to find a foreign nation has access to every intimate detail of their private lives." A former CIA worker, Edward Snowden, 29, leaked secret documents about the surveillance program to "The Guardian" last week. Mr Snowden is currently in hiding in Hong Kong. The USA says he has broken the law. Moscow has said Snowden may be able to live safely in Russia.

Sources: BBC / New Europe / Wikipedia

## Writing

One country should never spy on the people of another country. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

worried / top-secret / spied / citizens / promise / personal information / terrorists / phone records / voice chat / social networking / private lives / leaked / in hiding

## True / False

- a) The USA has been spying on the leaders of European countries. T / F
- b) The USA used a surveillance program called PRISM. T / F
- c) A company tapped into e-mails from Google and Facebook accounts. T / F
- d) U.S. law says the program cannot access the e-mails of Americans. T / F
- e) The spying program cannot access voice chat or people's videos. T / F
- f) The spies could look at anyone's e-mail whenever they wanted. T / F
- g) A current CIA worker told a U.K. newspaper about the spying program. T / F
- h) The worker is now in hiding somewhere in Hong Kong. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. worried      | a. journalist |
| 2. surveillance | b. guarantee  |
| 3. daily        | c. potential  |
| 4. promise      | d. spying     |
| 5. possible     | e. released   |
| 6. power        | f. concerned  |
| 7. reporter     | g. private    |
| 8. intimate     | h. presently  |
| 9. leaked       | i. everyday   |
| 10. currently   | j. ability    |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) Would you like to be a spy?
- b) What do you think about America spying on the e-mail of Europeans?
- c) What is wrong with spying?
- d) Are you worried people are reading your e-mail?
- e) Facebook tells us our private details are secure. They are not. What do you think of this?
- f) Why is America spying on Europeans?
- g) When is spying a good thing?
- h) Would you be good at spying?

## Phrase Match

- |                               |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. a top-secret American      | a. into voice chat        |
| 2. looking at the daily       | b. European citizens      |
| 3. personal                   | c. terrorists             |
| 4. respect the rights of      | d. of their private lives |
| 5. possible                   | e. surveillance program   |
| 6. tap                        | f. hiding in Hong Kong    |
| 7. every intimate detail      | g. the law                |
| 8. leaked secret              | h. actions of spies       |
| 9. Mr Snowden is currently in | i. documents              |
| 10. he has broken             | j. data                   |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think will happen in this story?
- Are you worried now about the security of your online information?
- What should the US say to European citizens?
- Would people be shocked or bored if they read your private mail?
- Is it right for people to tell their country's secrets to newspapers?
- What do you think of the CIA?
- What should happen to Edward Snowden?
- What questions would you like to ask Edward Snowden?

## Spelling

- The European Union (EU) is eridorw
- elnesrvaucli program
- EU icoffalis are angry
- respect the rights of European nictzsie
- personal inmfioarnot
- possible oisrretrst
- non-US snoaalti
- social networking dasteli
- workers could sescca anyone's emails
- every ntaetmii detail of their private lives
- eelkad secret documents
- Mr Snowden is rrunltecy in hiding

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. c
6. j	7. a	8. g	9. e	10. h

## Role Play

### Role A – Age

You think your age is the biggest thing to keep a secret. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their thing. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): address, salary or e-mail password.

### Role B – Address

You think your address is the biggest thing to keep a secret. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their thing. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): age, salary or e-mail password.

### Role C – Salary

You think your salary is the biggest thing to keep a secret. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their thing. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): address, age or e-mail password.

### Role D – e-mail password

You think your e-mail password is the biggest thing to keep a secret. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their thing. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): address, salary or age.

## Speaking

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the most secret at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| • date of birth   | • your telephone number |
| • weight          | • your salary           |
| • e-mail password | • your address          |
| • cash card PIN   | • your medical records  |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.