Digital Security Training

GROUNDWORK PROJECT

Your facilitators

Trey Walk (he/him)
Democracy Researcher and Advocate
walkt@hrw.org

Pen Christian (they/them)
Communications Director
pen@groundworkproject.com

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Goals for this training

- Consider potential threats in an online environment for community activists.

- Introduce the concept of a "risk appetite" and begin determining this for you and your organization.

- Explore basic principles and tools you can implement now to improve your digital security.

- Provide those with higher risk profiles or those seeking to learn more additional resources to explore these tools and tactics further.

Why this training?

- Civil and human rights organizers, folks who dissent, people who live at the margins of society, have historically been subject to surveillance.
- Our digital age has expanded opportunities to organize and mobilize while also creating new safety risks for vulnerable communities.
- Certain issues more likely to face risk: Black, Latino, Indigenous people; undocumented peoples; LGBTQ people, especially trans community; harm reduction organizers; reproductive justice organizers or people seeking abortion care; individuals with record in criminal legal system

2025 political climate

- Generative AI and deepfakes
- Platform instability - Twitter/X, TikTok
- New Presidential administration

Law enforcement surveillance

Examples

LAPD Requested Ring Footage of Black Lives Matter Protests

BY **MATTHEW GUARIGLIA** AND **DAVE MAASS** | FEBRUARY 16, 2021

HOME > NEWS

NYPD must release 2,700 documents on surveillance of Black Lives Matter activists, or say why it can't: judge

POLICE SURVEILLED GEORGE FLOYD PROTESTS WITH HELP FROM TWITTER-AFFILIATED STARTUP DATAMINR
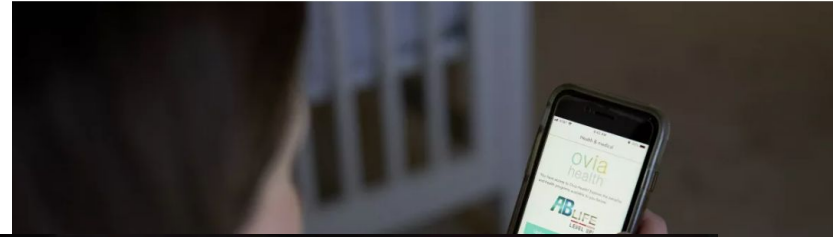
Examples

LEAKED DOCUMENTS REVEAL COUNTERTERRORISM TACTICS USED AT STANDING ROCK TO "DEFEAT PIPELINE INSURGENCIES"

How data from period-tracking and pregnancy apps could be used to prosecute pregnant people

US education

The risks of student surveillance amid abortion bans and LGBTQ restrictions

Monitoring tools used by schools have long been a privacy concern, but now they could also carry legal consequences

Examples

NATIONAL SECURITY

2-year investigation reveals ICE has data on most of the American public

May 20, 2022 · 5:02 PM ET

Heard on All Things Considered

EMILY FENG

JONAKI MEHTA

JUSTINE KENIN

NEWS

ICE Has Spent $2.8 Billion on Surveillance Tech Since 2008: Report

A new report alleges a "vast lack of transparency" surrounding ICE's data collection and surveillance practices.

By Mack DeGeurin | 5/10/22 5:30PM | Comments (5) | Alerts

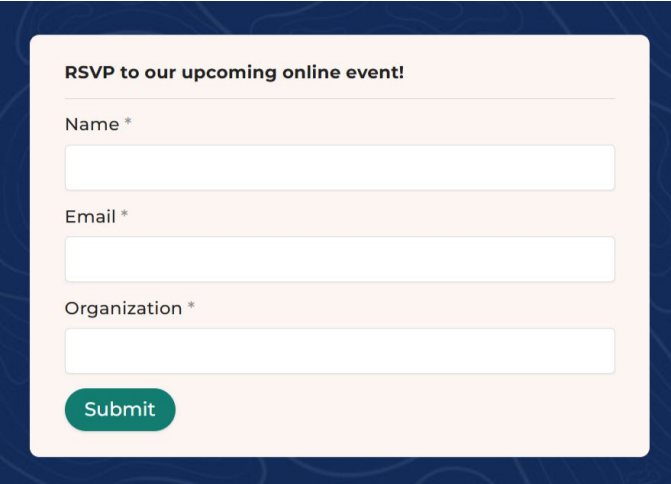## Report linked here

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Risk appetite

Online Events

Securing your digital events

- What security measures do you take for events you publicly post about online?
  - Vetting RSVPs before sending them the zoom link, location, etc.
  - Securing RSVP info so people can't target attendees.
  - Approving posts on event page.
  - Limiting information on RSVP form.
- Enabling a waiting room
- Monitoring chats on live streams

RSVP to our upcoming online event!

Name *

Email *

Organization *

Submit

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Digital Threats:
Doxing, Online Harassment

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*Doxing and online harassment

- Think proactively about what **could** happen.
- Doxing refers to the act of searching for and publishing private or identifying information about a particular individual on the Internet, typically with malicious intent
- Know your digital footprint and remove sensitive information - see resources for details.
- Trolling
  - Blocking vs reporting vs ignoring
- Securing your pages, creating guidelines
  - Private accounts vs public accounts
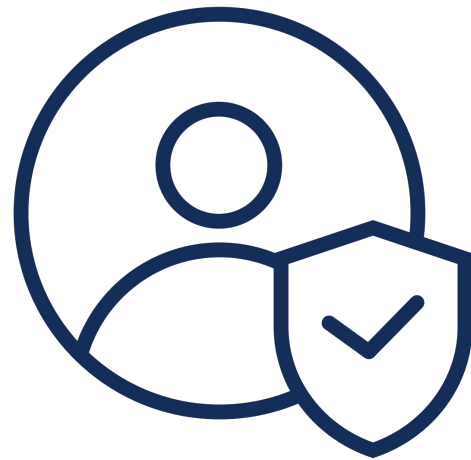
Media & Research

Media & Research

<u>Everything in public domain is legal for media outlets to use.</u>

Curate your digital footprint + protect your public persona.

Review what's publicly accessible on your personal online accounts.

Media & Research

Intentional media engagement:

Research reporters and outlets

✔ Check their social media

✔ See how they've written about the topic before

✔ Do a google, see what information you can find

Go into interviews well-informed

✔ Identify your main message and stick to it

✔ Be ready for anything

✔ Practice, practice, practice

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Security Practices for Protecting Yourself Online

- Encrypted communications
  - Signal for sensitive communication
  - Virtual Private Network (VPN) for internet use
- Two-factor authentication (2FA)
- Secure passwords
  - Use a password generator
  - Use password management, secure storing
- Data safety
  - Data archiving

Encryption

Questions?

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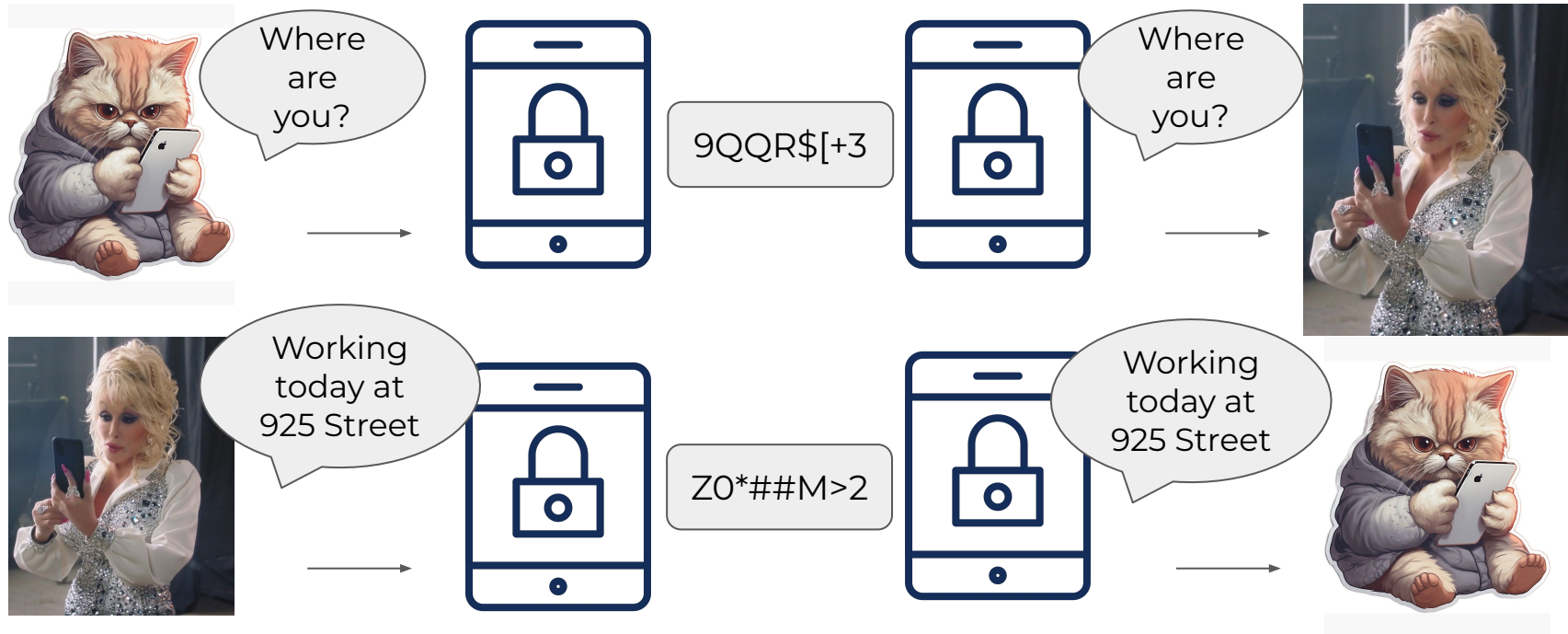
More Resources

- Personal Security Plan - securityplanner.consumerreports.org
- Surveillance Self Defense - ssd.eff.org
- Digital Security Helpline - accessnow.org/help