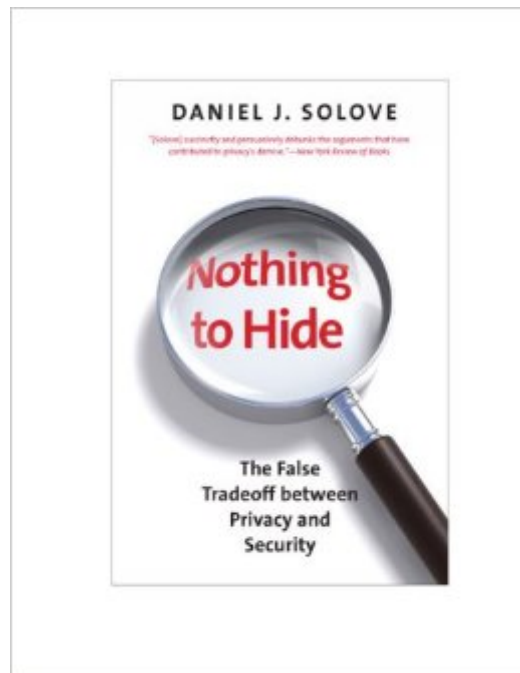


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Nothing To Hide: The False Tradeoff Between Privacy And Security



Synopsis

"If you've got nothing to hide," many people say, "you shouldn't worry about government surveillance." Others argue that we must sacrifice privacy for security. But as Daniel J. Solove argues in this important book, these arguments and many others are flawed. They are based on mistaken views about what it means to protect privacy and the costs and benefits of doing so. The debate between privacy and security has been framed incorrectly as a zero-sum game in which we are forced to choose between one value and the other. Why can't we have both? In this concise and accessible book, Solove exposes the fallacies of many pro-security arguments that have skewed law and policy to favor security at the expense of privacy. Protecting privacy isn't fatal to security measures; it merely involves adequate oversight and regulation. Solove traces the history of the privacy-security debate from the Revolution to the present day. He explains how the law protects privacy and examines concerns with new technologies. He then points out the failings of our current system and offers specific remedies. *Nothing to Hide* makes a powerful and compelling case for reaching a better balance between privacy and security and reveals why doing so is essential to protect our freedom and democracy. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Yale University Press (January 8, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0300172338

ISBN-13: 978-0300172331

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 5.5 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars See all reviews (14 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #754,208 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #84 in Books > Computers & Technology > History & Culture > Computer & Internet Law #113 in Books > Law > Legal Theory & Systems > Science & Technology #834 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Public Affairs & Policy > Social Policy

Customer Reviews

It's hard to get people to care about privacy and technology. Defeatism and denial are all too common. There is a bipartisan consensus for an expanding surveillance state. Some argue that

good people don't need privacy: if you've got nothing to hide, why worry about governments or businesses looking through your business? Daniel J. Solove's new book, *Nothing to Hide*, shatters that myth. This book reaffirms the value of privacy, shows how endangered it is, and proposes real solutions. So why should you worry about privacy, even if you've got "nothing to hide?" First, in an era of rampant overcriminalization, it's hard to know if you really are "clean." Recall Cardinal Richelieu's famous line, "If you give me six lines written by the hand of the most honest of men, I will find something in them which will hang him." Moreover, Solove shows that the "nothing to hide" caucus misunderstands privacy as merely a problem of an individual trying to conceal something they don't want others to know. What we really should be thinking about is a process of aggregation of data, where our lives become an open book for those powerful or rich enough to demand our profiles. Solove gives the example of a person buying a book on cancer, and a few weeks later purchasing a wig. What may have once looked like a vague interest in disease now crystallizes into a relative certainty that the person has, or knows someone, with cancer. Like tiny tiles fitted into a mosaic, any particular piece of data may not say all that much. But when they are put together, they can deeply influence how a person is perceived, and ultimately, how they are treated. Solove's most striking contribution is to show us that the dichotomy between privacy and security is often a false one.

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