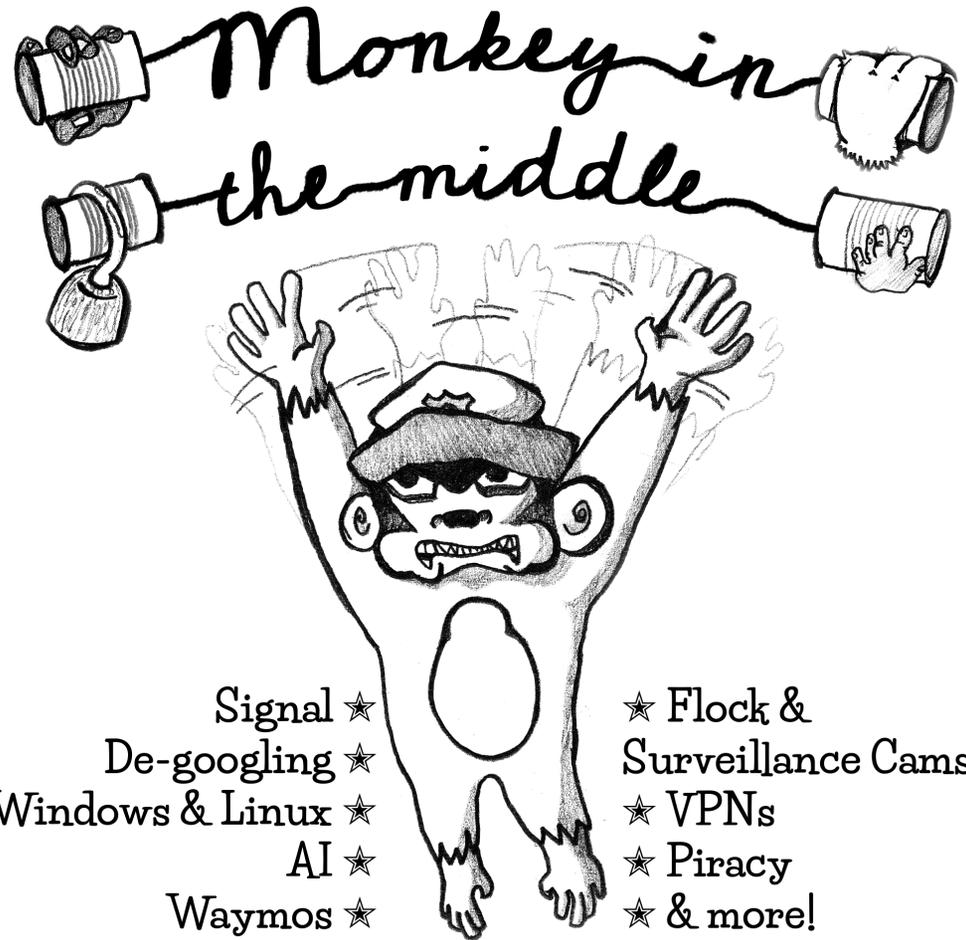


THE END (for now...)

Around the world, and especially in the USA that tries so hard to appear like the “global peacekeeper”, a shining bastion full of “opportunity” for “everyone”, it’s hard to realize that these technologies and these systems of power are already a life or death situation, and that they already have control over us. When you truly fight back or watch those who do, you see how ensnared and visible we are, and that’s exactly why we have to team up to overwhelm and dismantle these traps. As more and more people hang out in-person & meet their neighbors, as more and more event flyers are spread through street poles & Signal group chats, and as more and more people throw rocks at cameras and at agents of oppression... Somewhere along that process, we’re building the relationships and communities and worlds that will actually keep us connected, safe, and dangerous to those who threaten that.

Bonus Reading and Resource List!

Kill the Cop in Your Pocket zine: anarsec.guide/posts/nophones/nophones-letter-en.pdf	(A)BC’s Mini-Guide to Protesting zine: sproutdistro.com/catalog/zines/direct-action/abcs-mini-guide-protesting/
Turn off your Phone zine: sproutdistro.com/catalog/zines/security/turn-off-your-phone	GrapheneOS – A free & open source, privacy-&-security-focused Operating System for Google Pixel phones: grapheneos.org
User-submitted Flock Camera map: deflock.org	Article about Stingrays/IMSI Catchers (phone surveillance devices):
Birds of a Feather Anti-Flock zine: sproutdistro.com/catalog/zines/direct-action/birds-feather-flock/	eff.org/deeplinks/2025/03/meet-rayhunter-new-open-source-tool-eff-detect-cellular-spying
COINTELPRO101 – A short documentary on FBI domestic political suppression: archive.org/details/s1_Cointelpro101	(Countering) ICE Surveillance zine: 404media.co/icezine/



Digital Privacy & Security:
Keeping Safe in a World of Tech

NO COPYRIGHT! JUST COPY IT, ALRIGHT? :)

★ Made in LibreOffice – Feb. 2026 – No AI! ★

Privacy: To not be surveilled or intruded upon, and to have your information go only where you need and choose.

Security: How well something is kept from the outside.

Example: a Google account is secure, but not private.

INTRO (You Should Read it!)

This zine is for everyone, especially young people (cuz I'm one!), the people oppressed for their identity, the people who live outside under watchful eyes, and the people who want to make the world a better, more loving place.

It's also for people on social media saying:

**NO ONE IS ILLEGAL
ON STOLEN LAND!**

ABOLISH ICE!

ACAB!

Because while it's important and valid to share how you're feeling with your people, it has also become super common to share your name, face, interests, life moments, and political opinions all in one public place, and it can be real dangerous too.

Social media is like a mouse trap, and it was designed by billionaires who keep their *own* kids away from it on purpose¹. It's a trap that uses manipulation and ads to get us to trade our personal information for some convenient self-expression and connection.

As convenient and rewarding as social media feels for us, it's even *better* for the government. You can imagine how helpful social media is for our 3+ government agencies that primarily exist to snoop on their people, especially the people who know how to meaningfully disrupt their oppressive systems. Not only do these agencies snoop, but they get involved, sabotaging and destabilizing political movements from within, and jailing or killing those who get on their nerves.²

1 <https://www.fastcompany.com/90900166/tech-social-media-protection-children>

2 For examples: Lookup "COINTELPRO" and check the Bonus Reading List

♥ Don't post footage online. And if you do, don't include faces, tattoos, etc. And if you do, censor it with a scribble or an image, not a blur.

♥ Coordinate a meetup time, and walk to and from the action with others. Police often pick off and arrest isolated people.

♥ Have someone at home who knows when you should be back safely. Have a lawyer & local jail support in mind.

♥ **Embrace & respect a diversity of tactics.** Many big political groups like PSL, RCA, 50501, etc. are known to be corrupt, authoritarian, and more caring about recruitment and peaceful photo-ops than accomplishing something effective.²¹ ACAB includes the peace police.



VPNs

In a nutshell, VPNs encrypt your Internet traffic and mask your IP address, which can both be used to link your digital activity to you.



VPNs make it so that your Internet Service Provider (ex. Cox, AT&T, Verizon) or anyone else shouldn't be able to see what you're doing online. They can see that you're connected to an encrypted tunnel, but there will be no info on what's happening within it.

Also, check out the **Tor browser** for even *better* anonymity!²²

♥ Good & free VPN: **ProtonVPN**

♥ Better & \$5/month: **MullvadVPN**

Piracy is ethical BTW! If there's a small studio or independent artist that you really want to support, please do! Buy DVDs, buy/make merch, recommend the media. But almost all big studios & big actors don't deserve the money, and streaming services *definitely* don't. **Download the uBlock adblocker as a browser extension before venturing further!**

(Carefully navigate *fmhy.net* or *Reddit megathreads*)



21 <https://linktr.ee/PSLflags>

22 <https://www.torproject.org>

identifiable info (ex. color, damage, or bumper stickers) . They store all this data in a vast, searchable database that's accessible only to the camera company and to local law enforcement, who can then further share it to a country-wide law enforcement database.

Since 2024 Flock brand cameras have quickly grown from nearly nonexistent to 80,000+, and they currently claim to read over **20 billion plates monthly**. They're common in construction sites and high-traffic areas like big intersections, public parks, and store parking lots. They specifically target the parking lots of chain corporations that are common for migrants and poorer communities, like Walmart, Home Depot, or Lowe's.

Waymo publically debuted in AZ in 2017. A Google-owned, hellish crossover of AI, 29+ cameras, and car-based infrastructure. Instead: Carpool, support cab drivers, take the bus.



In November 2025, Ring began a collaboration with Flock Safety, meaning they would be adding all of their camera footage to the Flock police database, as well as adding facial recognition to all their Ring doorbells.

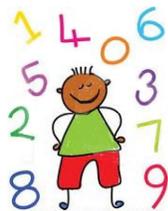
SAFETY AT A PROTEST, DEMO, RIOT, ETC.

There are other resources to cover this topic better and in more details, but I'll give a quick list of tips to help keep you safe.

♥ **If you can, don't bring your phone at all.** If you do bring it, keep it fully powered off while you can, or better yet, stored in a Faraday Bag.

♥ **Use a long PIN on your phone instead of biometrics** (FaceID/Fingerprint). Cops have forced people to unlock biometric locks without a warrant.

♥ **Don't record.** And if you do, record without unlocking your phone.



Digital privacy & surveillance are often treated as unimportant—"I have nothing to hide," "Surveillance helps to catch the bad guys," and "They already have all my info anyways," are very common opinions. But, they fail to understand that the ones who surveil us are much more dubious than any "bad guys" or rioters, and that **increasing censorship will not stop unless it is stopped**. If a person has "nothing to say or hide," it doesn't mean that everyone else should be watched and silenced too. And by the time that person decides they want to speak up after all, it might be too late. Speaking out already means death or imprisonment for many.

It can be overwhelming to think about, because it's not just our phones. Computers, watches, doorbell cameras, streets, workplaces, and even modern cars are compromised. For decades, governments and companies have been creating and upgrading our digital world by building cell towers, faster devices, and "more convenient" methods of life. At the same time, they designed these systems to make sure that everyone and everything is traceable, and to make us dependent on these conveniences that steal our attention and money, becoming less private with each "upgrade".

But it's not a lost cause either! On a structural level, we can first stop enabling harmful companies and technologies through things like boycotts, teach-ins, buying second-hand, & direct action.³ Another easy starting point is to simply **turn off your phone**. Or better yet, to not bring it! Whether it's in the shower, kitchen, grocery store, or park, occasionally leaving our phones behind is a powerful reminder of how much control it has over us, and one step towards lessening that reliance. It can't if it's not there!

It's also important to remember in this world that feels like it's rapidly devolving: it didn't start here. ICE has ruined families since its creation in 2001, the FBI has been intimidating, sabotaging, and killing political movements & leaders since the 1800s, and America's genocidal past & present has been wreaking havoc worldwide since 1492. **No matter who was in charge.**

³ Direct action: Using immediately effective acts like sabotage or other demonstrations to achieve a political/social end instead of relying on uncaring/sluggish systems (ex. voting/lobbying, organized peace marches).

This is a long fight, so it's important to remember and learn from the USA's real history, as well as the revolutionary movements and lessons within it.

With all that being said, for those who want to live without being tracked and sold, and for those who want to stay safer in the fight against tyranny and systems of division, inequality, and violence, **let's get it started!!!**

SIGNAL

A free, non-profit, no ads, cross-platform, private, and international app for messaging and calling!

Signal is end-to-end encrypted (E2EE)⁴, which means that to anyone besides the intended audience, your data will look like this →

The app requires only a phone number to sign up, which you can hide from others. Signal is also open-source⁵, which means, among other things, that people can see how it works "under the hood" and spot features or code that do something bad or unadvertised.

General Tip: I recommend going through your phone's settings and changing them for each app based on your own personal privacy goals, for example turning off location or gallery permissions for apps that don't need it. This process is called **hardening**, and it depends on your specific threat model!⁶

For Signal hardening, I recommend these settings at least⁷:

♥ **Settings** → **Account:** Make a good PIN (6+ digits). Write it down!

♥ **Settings** → **Click on Profile Photo:** Make a username that isn't easily tied to you (aka different than your Instagram)

4 <https://www.anarsec.guide/glossary/#encryption>

5 <https://isitreallyfoss.com/projects/signal/>

6 Threat modeling: Analyzing risks and attack angles, so that you can identify what defenses & compromises you will/won't make to uphold your safety.

7 For more details and settings, check this Signal hardening guide by Techlore: <https://youtu.be/DPjg3651oJM>

CAMERAS

Cameras are quickly improving and multiplying, becoming the nightmare of many dystopian 80s movies. They stress people out and alter our brains¹⁹, and they teach people to neatly behave according to the watchful lenses of law, to be suspicious and alert even of our own neighbors!

Also, many of the remotely-accessible cameras belong to just a few companies (like Amazon's Ring), which all have severe privacy issues, like being known to collect and flippantly use your private data for money or for helping law enforcement.

Both the Nextdoor app and Ring cameras work heavily with law enforcement, with Ring having an app for users called 'Neighbors', which partners with 2,600+ PDs. Compared to Nextdoor, Neighbors is much more focused on crime and "keeping the neighborhood clean", which often leads people to post footage of someone acting "suspicious" or "criminal" when they may just be mentally ill, homeless, poor, brown or black, or otherwise marginalized.²⁰ It's no coincidence that demographics are also at higher risks of dealing with police brutality & unjust treatment.



It's important to remember that, like a gun or a can of paint, cameras can be tools towards liberation too. They can film and bring justice to police encounters or abuse situations, they can leak footage of cruel facilities, and they can keep watch over things that truly matter, unlike Flock cameras.

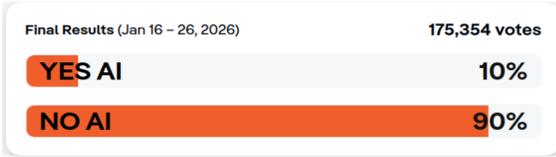
FLOCK / ALPRs

"Flock Camera" is a brand term for an ALPR (Automated License Plate Reader) camera. ALPRs use AI to track passing vehicles, scanning and cataloging license plates as far as 75 feet (+ nightvision). They also make a detailed "fingerprint" of your vehicle using any other



19 <https://theconversation.com/surveillance-tech-is-changing-our-behaviour-and-our-brains-246675>

20 [vice.com/en/article/amazons-home-security-company-is-turning-everyone-into-cops](https://www.vice.com/en/article/amazons-home-security-company-is-turning-everyone-into-cops)



DuckDuckGo ran a poll about AI in web browsing, and 90% voted against it!

WINDOWS, MAC, AND LINUX

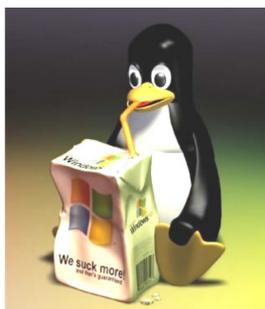
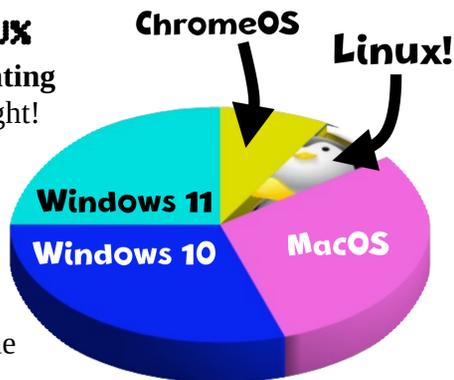
Three examples of a computer **Operating System (OS)**. Usage % seen to the right!

Windows is made by the trillion-dollar company Microsoft, a long-time provider of cloud and AI services to the Israeli military¹⁷, who heavily rely on Microsoft as part of their ongoing 70+ year genocide of the Palestinians.¹⁸

Windows is a paid OS used by over 50% of all computers, and Microsoft has filled it with bloated software, surveillance, ads, AI (Copilot), & more.

MacOS is less obtrusive and more secure than modern Windows, although it's also closed-source (untrustworthy) and Apple exclusive, among other issues.

Linux is another OS, one that is completely free, open-source, and community-led. Linux has very similar usability to Windows, though it's quicker and much more private and ethical. It can be installed on any PC or most Macs older than ~2019. It's a big leap to change operating systems, but Linux deserves its chance in the spotlight! There are tons of videos explaining the switch to Linux. Linux comes in many versions (aka Distributions), and I recommend **Linux Mint!**



*Advanced tip: To avoid your Signal phone # being revealed by a warrant or subpoena, register for Signal with a **VoIP or burner number** that can receive text or calls. You'll only ever need the number again for account recovery or migration.*



WHAT ABOUT MY OTHER MESSAGING APPS?

Instagram and Facebook (Messenger): Owned by Meta, who, like all big tech companies (and most companies in general), are untrustworthy and commonly abuse sensitive data, people, and the environment.



WhatsApp: also by Meta. Encrypted, though compared to Signal, it collects and shares⁸ much more data (and messages too⁹).

Discord: Not private or secure.¹⁰ Unencrypted and collects tons of unnecessary data and metadata. Consider using **Element** instead: <https://element.io/en/user-guide>.

RCS, SMS, & MMS (Phone #): Not private, secure, or encrypted. **iMessage:** Apple exclusive. Encrypted, but still untrustworthy and worse than Signal.

Telegram: Not private or secure (No E2EE by default, largely closed-source, confusing encryption, lots of metadata, etc.¹¹).

17 This also relates to the Imperial Boomerang, a concept stating that when governments develop repressive, imperialist techniques against foreign enemies, they'll eventually deploy those same techniques against their own citizens. Our police already cross-train with the Israeli military, and share tools from Pegasus to Palantir.

18 <https://bdsmovement.net/microsoft>

8 <https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-features/whatsapp-imessage-facebook-apple-fbi-privacy-1261816/>

9 <https://arstechnica.com/gadgets/2021/09/whatsapp-end-to-end-encrypted-messages-arent-that-private-after-all/>

10 https://www.reddit.com/r/privacy/comments/rsxee/you_should_never_use_discord_and_heres_why/

11 <https://spectrum.ieee.org/telegram-security>

PRIVACY-RESPECTING APP ALTERNATIVES

Some recommendations for starters:

- ♥ Chrome, Safari, etc. TO → **Firefox Focus** on mobile, **LibreWolf** or **Mullvad** on PC, **Vivaldi** or **Brave** on mobile/PC for compatibility¹²
 - ♥ Gmail, Yahoo, Outlook, etc. TO → **ProtonMail**, **Tuta**, or **Mailbox**
 - ♥ Notes App TO → **Obsidian**
 - ♥ Google Docs, Slides, Sheets, Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, etc. TO → **LibreOffice Suite** (**CryptPad** or **Proton Suite** for collaborative)
 - ♥ Google Drive TO → **Proton Drive**, **Mega.nz** (and <https://wormhole.app/> for quick, temporary file sharing)
 - ♥ Spotify TO → MP3 Player (or FOSS 3rd party YTMusic clients like OpenTune or ViMusic)
- For more, updating alternatives: <https://switching.software/>.¹³



MESHTASTIC: Worth Mentioning!

Software that allows you to use inexpensive LoRa (Long Range) radios as an off-grid mesh networking communication tool. Encrypted and decentralized, community-driven, open source, & no operator's license required! No cell towers, no internet.
For more info: <https://meshtastic.org/>, YouTube

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

AI has existed for decades, but it's moving fast now. Generative AI¹⁴ is a subset of AI that has been shoved into almost everything: social media, classrooms, internet articles, public art events, cameras, criminal cases, and more.

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- 12 Some things on the internet are designed to be more compatible with Chrome-based browsers (Chrome, Brave, Vivaldi, etc.) as opposed to Firefox-based browsers (Firefox Focus, LibreWolf, Mullvad, Tor, etc.).
- 13 <https://privacytools.io/> and <https://alternativeto.net/> are also good sites for more private and/or FOSS alternatives to common apps.
- 14 Generative AI uses large databases & models to generate text, images, videos, audio, etc. (ex. ChatGPT, Gemini, Sora)

AI is being pushed by companies to make money by:

- ♥ making workers and machines more efficient
- ♥ generating trash articles full of ads, newsletters, & cookies
- ♥ making content more addictive (especially to children)

AI is touted as a new breed of genius, but in reality, it's just busy generating stolen, soulless pictures and music, spreading confident misinformation, corrupting our gift to critically think & research, guiding killer drones, and giving people psychosis and relationship issues¹⁵.

It seems like a reflection of our society's flaws, like our lack of community connection and mental health support¹⁶, or the mistreatment of real artists, or our ruling class and their endless drive for "progress"... anything to please the shareholders!

AI is a sign of the times, an in-your-face warning that's hard for most people to recognize, as they've already been trained to ignore the warnings of invasive plants, gentrification, expanding highways, and their own fatigue. We look to AI for new vaccines and medical solutions without realizing that this unnecessary lifestyle full of work, pollution, and disconnect from nature is causing most of the issues.



Get Rid of AI Search Results!

Use a search engine like **DuckDuckGo**, which lets you disable automatic AI Search Assist. It can attempt to filter out AI image results too. Also, you can limit a search to a date range (eg. pre-2022) in DuckDuckGo by clicking on 'Any Time' after a search. (Or on Google by including "before:YYYY" at the end of a search).

15 wikipedia.org/wiki/Chatbot_psychosis

16 <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2025/dec/09/teenagers-ai-chatbots-mental-health-support>