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“Privacy is dead? The Silent Rise of Digital Surveillance”

The modern world provides us with connectivity, convenience and facilities, but in return we have to pay some cost. Our actions, movements and thoughts, everything is monitored by the modern system. An invisible eye is watching us continuously without our realization. Isn't that severe and risky?

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Introduction

In the modern world, where technology is becoming a crucial part of life, it has also brought us risks to privacy. Smart phones, smart cities and artificial intelligence have all brought major advancements and relief in our life but besides this, our privacy has also vanished gradually.

People just think the security cameras are the only thing that ruins their privacy, but in reality, there is much more. Mobile phones, digital apps and advanced AI systems all monitor our movement and interactions, even our thinking and speaking.

Every step we take, every interaction we have, every place we visit, has been recorded by the digital system. All added to our digital footprint.

" We built a world that watches us—and then called it progress."

Technology Overview

In the digital world, surveillance works by the use of advanced technologies like sensors, artificial intelligence and data analytics, much more than just with a camera. These systems analyze, monitor and collect vast amounts of data and use it to train their systems and to have control over us.

Did you notice, when you talk about something, after that moment your phone shows you the same thing you talk about, which means our phone monitors our speech. Isn't that concerning?

Smartphones also track our live location. In cases of theft, these systems caught the thief by tracking the location. The basic form of surveillance is a CCTV camera that we see everywhere in supermarkets and malls. These are used for safety, but also violate people's privacy.

When we use digital apps, they want us to give access to our contacts, gallery and microphone, etc. This is not necessary for their system to operate, but to collect users' sensitive information and to have control over people.

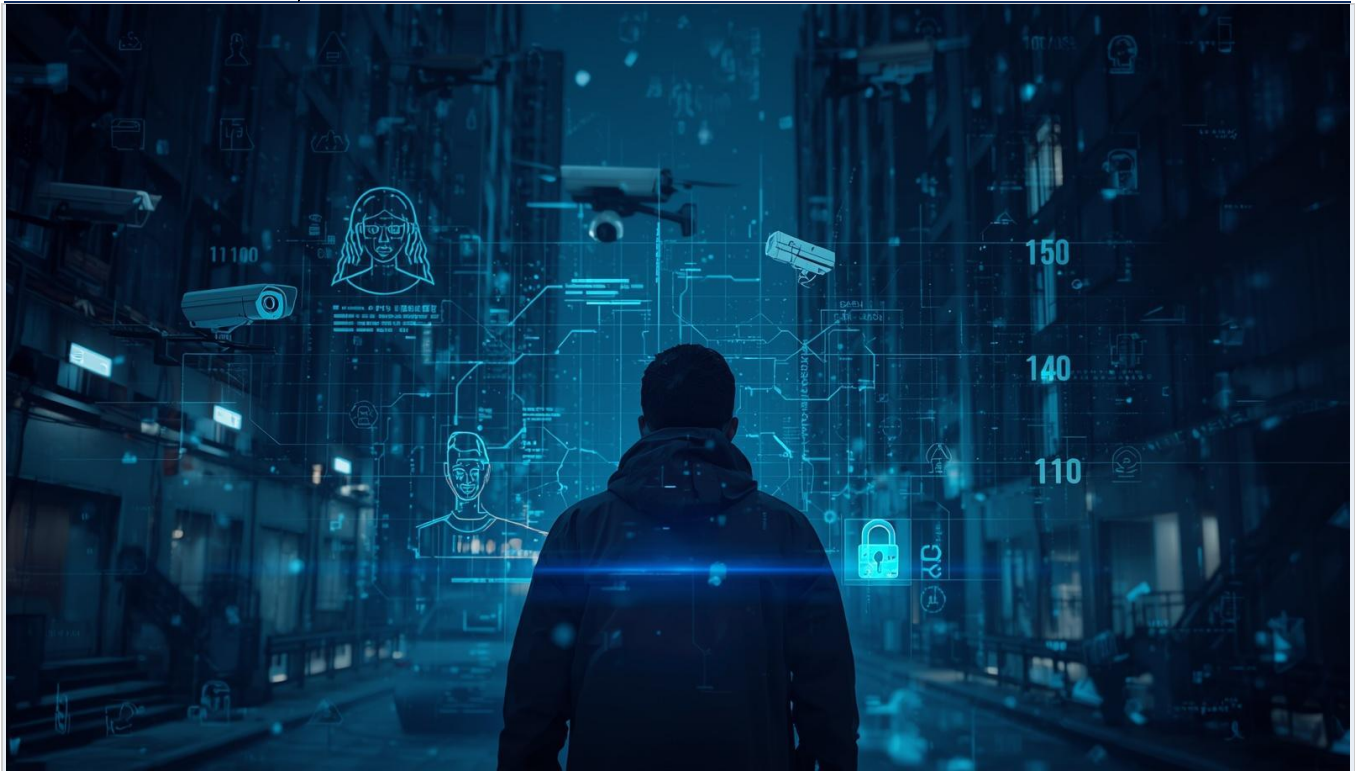


Figure 1: A visualization of modern surveillance, where digital systems track user activity and expose individuals to data privacy and cybersecurity risks. Credit: AI Generated.

Key Findings & Impact

No doubt, these technologies give us growth and efficiency, but the cost we have to pay is our privacy, which is not acceptable. Constant surveillance reduces personal freedom and creates an observant environment where no one is comfortable.

Even though cybersecurity is doing wonders, it is still not strong enough to protect sensitive data. Hackers can still have unauthorized access by techniques like phishing, data breaches and malware. According to a study, millions of users are affected by cyberattacks. This raises serious concerns about the privacy of sensitive data.

The data stored can be misused, shared for advertising purposes or behavior manipulation without the user's consent.

All this also affects people's psychology and mental well-being because the sense of being monitored and watched continuously feels so uncomfortable. As a result, they reduce the freedom of speech and expression.

What's Next?

Awareness is key to being safe. Individuals should make informed decisions and be responsible for their own actions.

We should not normalize surveillance because when no one questions their privacy, then basically it's a sign that they are accepting it.

Also, digital systems should take responsibility for their user's privacy and enable encryption and data protection policies.



About the Author

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