



The Chicago News

by Joselyn Palmer

The Whistleblower

What if your government job involved illegally spying on innocent people? And the only way to speak out also meant giving up your family, your girlfriend, and your country?

Edward Snowden was faced with this dilemma. When he first started having doubts about the ethics of what he was doing, he was working for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the National Security Agency (NSA) as a digital spymaster in Switzerland. Snowden says he got tired of his co-workers showing each other intimate photos of people they'd hacked, including their own boyfriends and girlfriends. He also felt betrayed when his boss James Clapper Jr. was asked by Congress whether the CIA was spying on millions of US citizens, and Clapper said 'no'. Snowden decided to copy hundreds of thousands of documents from the US, Australian and UK intelligence services. Then he released many of them to journalists in the US, the UK and Germany. The NSA says Snowden might have copied more than a million files.

Thanks to Snowden, we now know the US National Security Agency (NSA), together with other governments, broke federal privacy laws thousands of times a year (they admitted to it in an internal report). We also know the NSA physically tapped into undersea cables to access information – sometimes they used submarines that opened the cables at their joints, while other

involve medföra
illegal olaglig
innocent oskyldig
be faced with stå inför
dilemma problem
doubts tvivel
ethics moral
CIA den amerikanska
underrättelsetjänsten
NSA underrättelsetjänst
som signalspanar via
telefon och internet
co-worker medarbetare
betrayed sviken, förrådd
Congress USA:s kongress
(lagstiftande församling)
privacy privatliv
admit erkänna
internal intern
tap into avlyssna
access komma åt
joint skarv
prism prisma
duplicate kopiera

times they used glass prisms to duplicate the light signals where the undersea cables met land lines. They collected 21 million gigabytes of data every day this way.

Furthermore, the NSA weakened the Internet's encryption systems, making it easier for criminal hackers to follow in their footsteps and break into sensitive banking and medical records. The NSA even tapped into German chancellor Angela Merkel's phone, spied on UNICEF and Doctors without Borders, and tried to recruit Internet spies through *World of Warcraft* and Xbox Live – because they were worried terrorists might be communicating through the chats in these games.

Snowden was working in Hawaii when he started contacting journalists. At that point, his life started resembling a spy-thriller: he took a flight to Hong Kong to meet up with the journalists and give them the stolen information, which they started publishing.

The NSA finally realized it had lost both Snowden and the documents when it hacked Snowden's encrypted emails. The NSA couldn't see what he was writing, but they could see who he was writing to. With the US government chasing him, Snowden fled from Hong Kong to Russia, where he was given a safe haven. In his absence, the US charged Snowden with espionage and theft of government property.

Some people have suggested that Snowden was secretly working for the Russians the whole time. But seeing as the Russian government soon passed its own anti-terrorism law, the Yarovaya Law, it doesn't seem likely. The Russian law gave the government back-door access to all email and messaging services in the country, and required phone companies to save all phone-call data for months. This was the same type of invasion of privacy that Snowden had criticized in the US, and he criticized it in Russia as well.

What if you were employed to spy on millions of innocent people in the name of hunting terrorists? Would you be willing to give up your whole way of life to put a stop to it?

Edward Snowden was forced to answer that question. We know what his answer was.

Exercises in the Workbook: 1, 5, 9, 19, 25, 33

furthermore dessutom
weaken försvaga
encryption kryptering
sensitive känslig
records register,
dokument
chancellor
förbundskansler
UNICEF
FN:s barnrättsorgan
recruit rekrytera
resemble likna
fled (av flee) flydde
haven tillflyktsort
absence frånvaro
charge anklaga
espionage spioneri
theft stöld
property egendom
pass a law anta en lag
back-door access
hemlig tillgång
require kräva
be employed vara
anställd