



PANEL TWO CLOSING REMARKS

Date: November 22, 2022

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KEY EVENTS

On November 22, 2022, Charles Dumbrille, Chief Risk Officer for IN-D-TEL International, provided closing remarks for Panel 2: Intelligence Toolkit. The key issues discussed were the opportunities and ethical challenges for the intelligence and security community (ISC) presented by the rapid global advancement of technology, and the difficult conversations to be had on these issues by organisations and private citizens.

NATURE OF DISCUSSION

Mr. Dumbrille focused on the evolving challenges that rapid technological advances have presented to the intelligence and security community. While advancements have increased the efficiency and success of intelligence collection in private and public sectors, there are unavoidable privacy and data rights issues that so far have not properly been addressed. To start this process, organisations should prepare for scenarios where such tough ethical questions will arise and reform their policies accordingly.

BACKGROUND

Mr. Dumbrille began by highlighting how the conference hitherto had successfully pursued critical areas of CASIS's mission, notably by bridging the academic and practitioner community, and enhancing discussion of tough security issues and their root causes. Coming from the private sector sphere, Mr. Dumbrille was particularly struck by the shared priorities between the public and private sector highlighted by the panel.

Mr. Dumbrille acknowledged how the speed and scale of technological change has impacted the ISC, from the increased role assigned to intelligence analysts instead of intelligence officers, to new tracking and intelligence collection

capabilities. Newfound capabilities include disaster preparedness and real-time detection of threat actors, yet such abilities are no longer refined to the government; NGOs, journalists, and private enterprises hold unique and powerful technologies.

The Snowden revelations, the FBI-Apple encryption dispute, and corporate data policies have thrust concerns about individual liberty, privacy, and data rights into central focus in the West. The ISC needs to have these tough discussions and debates before they become crises; they can no longer be postponed. Yet, Mr. Dumbrille cautioned that ISC should not lead this conversation but participate in it as private individuals; the ISC as a whole can support discussion and promote informed debates.

Steps organisations can take, particularly international organisations, include putting language into their contracts about respect for international law and civil rights. They should go through possible “use cases”; for example, how does a business respond to a government demanding access to their CCTV footage which was positioned to record a passing protest?

Mr. Dumbrille posited that individuals ought to hold companies accountable by staying informed when checking boxes on data and privacy policy, casting votes, or protesting. In actively asking ‘what-if’ questions, individuals perform small but integral duties as citizens, and in turn strengthen the social contract, liberal democratic norms, and our institutions.

KEY POINTS OF DISCUSSION

- Rapid and widespread global technological advances present business opportunities, but also tough ethical questions that can no longer be postponed to address later.
- Addressing such tough ethical questions surrounding privacy, data rights, and individual liberty will prepare and inform organisations before these issues result in crises.
- Individuals have a duty to lead discussions on the privacy and security nexus, and the ISC should support and promote these discussions.
- The capability gap has shrunk, governments no longer have a monopoly on advanced intelligence technologies (e.g., collection, tracking); the private sector now wields more powerful capabilities in this regard too.
- Individuals ought to ask ‘what-if’ questions to stay informed as they cast votes, protest, and agree to data policies of private companies. This creates better citizens and strengthens our institutions.



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