



Welcome Guest

Quotations

"The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who in times of moral outrage retain their neutrality."
(From the Inferno)

-- Dante

Login Here

Username

 Password

 Remember me

Don't have an account yet? You can **CREATE ONE HERE**.

Its free.

Main Menu

- Home
- Forums
- Downloads
- News
- Daily Archives
- Topics
- Reviews
- Search
- Subjects
- Links

Site Data

- FAQ
- Members List
- Most Popular Lists
- Recommend Us
- Statistics
- Credits

Online Now

We have 12 guests and 0 members online

You are an anonymous user. You can login here or register for free by clicking here.

AT&T and NSA : Their 'Secret Rooms'

Posted by :ilyana on Thursday, May 18, 2006 - 05:53 PM PST



are not quite so secret anymore. The secret rooms are the places where the NSA spliced into the fiber optic systems of AT&T to capture and record internet and telephone activities. At&T (1)is scrambling in denial to it's customers, to save face (and business), in the light of the exposure of their cooperation with the NSA.

Meanwhile the ex-chief of the NSA General Hayden maintains the NSA's activities are legal(2), during his testimony before the Senate as his nomination for chief of the CIA is considered. The federal government is squealing 'National Security' and trying to get Federal Judge Vaughn Walker to throw out the case against AT&T (3), that recently brought the NSA's activities into the public eye.

Of course the Federal government can claim 'legality' of anything that can't be openly challenged in court. Nothing is 'illegal' until the justice system has a chance to review evidence or arguments, within a court of law.. Until then, the Feds are innocent until proven guilty. If the courts are **not permitted** to review the "proof" because of an executive trump card called "National Security" (NS), then they can do anything at all as long as they cover it up with the NS card.

Fascism has taken root and Bush may have finally gotten his longed for title of dictator... Not decider. **DICTATOR**

I'm watching what Judge Walker(4) does with this case. After all, George Bush's middle name is Walker. I wonder if Bush and Walker might be blood related. George HW Bush appointed him to the federal bench which put Walker in in line for the position he now holds as Chief Justice in San Fransisco.

Court Deals AT&T a Setback

By Ryan Singel| 11:30 AM May, 17, 2006

SAN FRANCISCO -- A federal judge Wednesday shot down telecom giant AT&T's efforts to recover and suppress internal documents that a former AT&T technician says demonstrate the company's collusion in illegal government surveillance.

The documents, portions of which were published Wednesday by Wired News, are Exhibit A in the Electronic Frontier Foundation's class-action lawsuit against AT&T. The EFF alleges that the company illegally turned over vast troves of phone-record data to the National Security Agency, and has wired its internet backbone to secret NSA surveillance equipment.

Last week the government formally asked U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker to throw out the case for alleged national security reasons, a motion now scheduled to be heard June 23.

In the standing-room-only hearing Wednesday, the judge rejected the EFF's request that the documents provided to the organization by former company technician Mark Klein be unsealed in court records, and ordered EFF not to share the papers with anyone.

"It appears that there is a possibility that the documents contain significant trade secrets or proprietary information belonging to AT&T," said Walker.

But he rejected AT&T's motion asking the court to order EFF to return the documents to the company, noting, "Plaintiffs say they got the documents innocently, therefore, their possession is in no way improper and in no way illegal."

He also rejected AT&T's request for the judge to enjoin Klein from talking about the documents or providing them to others, saying that AT&T could sue the whistle-blower on its own.

The documents appear to show AT&T tapping into 16 fiber-optic cables connecting the company's WorldNet internet backbone to other internet service providers, and routing the traffic to a sophisticated data-analysis system made by California-based Narus.

In a written statement accompanying the pages, whistle-blower Klein says the Narus system was installed in a secret locked room inside an AT&T switching center in San Francisco that was off-limits to anyone without NSA clearance.

In court, AT&T attorney Bradford Berenson cast his client as a hapless victim, unable to defend itself while maintaining its national security obligations.

"The problem here is not just that the plaintiffs can't make their case, but that the defendants can't defend themselves," said Berenson, noting that some perfectly legal instruments of surveillance, like Patriot Act national security letters, come with binding secrecy requirements.



Related Links

- More about Fueling our mechanisms..
- News by ilyana

Most read story in Fueling our mechanisms..:
Ann Coulter out of time

Rate Article

This article has not been rated

"AT&T is an innocent bystander, and the fight should be between private parties and the government that started these (surveillance) programs and ran them," Berenson told the court.

Walker made clear that he wants the case to move forward quickly -- so fast that EFF attorney Cindy Cohn resorted to begging for extra time to file briefs.

One of those briefs is due Monday, advising the judge on how he should approach reading the government's classified arguments as to why the case should be dismissed.

The classified filing is currently in Washington, D.C., but can be flown under protective custody to San Francisco for the judge's inspection, according to Justice Department lawyer Carl Nichols.

Nichols told the judge that the extraordinary secrecy was necessary, because unlike a hypothetical case about the disclosure of a fighter jet weapon design -- where the government can admit the design exists -- "this case involves national intelligence sources and methods."

"To tell you those things in open court where they will be in the public record is to disclose the very thing we are trying to protect," Nichols said.

Walker asked some pointed and skeptical questions about whether the nearly all-powerful state secrets privilege, a holdover from English common law, trumps the Constitution and Congress.

"It is an inherent Article II (executive branch) power which unfortunately trumps a private litigant's right to his day in court," Nichols said.

Walker's ruling on the government's motion to dismiss the case for national security reasons could come as early as the June 23 hearing, but his ruling either way is nearly certain to trigger an immediate appeal to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

That's one reason the EFF asked the judge to first hear its motion for a preliminary injunction since, as Cohn argued, the "massive flow of information will continue during the appeal."

Walker called that "putting the cart before the horse," and will first rule on the government's and AT&T's motions to dismiss the case.

After the hearing, Klein addressed reporters on the courthouse steps.

"As you all know there is a big public debate going on about government surveillance," Klein said in a voice barely above a whisper. "I believe I have significant information to bring to the table, and I have been struggling for some time to bring it out in the light of day. And that's all I wanted to do -- is bring it out so that people can examine it and decide for themselves."

go to original article for an informative link box called "Inside the Secret Room" for a series of must read stories on the AT&T and NSA's spy story... Read them before they are scrubbed for "national security reasons":

<http://www.wired.com/news/technology/0,70916-0.html>

(1) AT&T says: excerpt:

AT&T has a long history of vigorously protecting customer privacy. Our customers expect, deserve and receive nothing less than our fullest commitment to their privacy.

We also have an obligation to assist law enforcement and other government agencies responsible for protecting the public welfare, whether it be an individual or the security interests of the entire nation.

We prize the trust our customers place in us. If and when AT&T is asked to help, we do so strictly within the law and under the most stringent conditions. Beyond that, we don't comment on matters of national security.

<http://www.thedailyreport.com/daily/node/1482>

(2) Hayden insisted the NSA activity is "legal":

excerpt: "Clearly the privacy of American citizens is a concern constantly," the four-star Air Force general told the Senate Intelligence Committee at his confirmation hearing. "We always balance privacy and security."

<http://www.forbes.com/entrepreneurs/feeds/ap/2006/05/18/ap2756935.html>

(3) Suit against AT&T:

<http://www.wired.com/news/technology/0,70619-0.html>

(4) Judge Walker was appointed to the Federal Court by George HW Bush, then became Chief Justice in Sept, 2004..

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2004/09/01/BAGIL8HG VF1.DTL>

Explore more of Choice Changes:

<http://www.choicechanges.com>

Post comments

Comments are owned by the poster. We aren't responsible for their content.



All logos and trademarks on this site are property of their respective owners. The comments are the property of their posters, all the rest © 2002 by me
This web site was made with MD-Pro, a web portal system written in PHP. MD-Pro is free software released under the GNU/GPL license.
You can syndicate our news using the file backend.php

> [Designed by Theme Labs](#)

Powered by MD-Pro