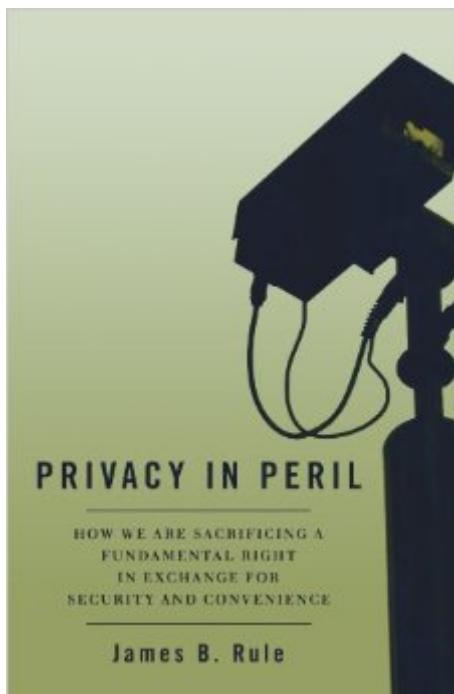


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Privacy In Peril: How We Are Sacrificing A Fundamental Right In Exchange For Security And Convenience



Synopsis

This provocative book offers a probing account of the erosion of privacy in American society, that shows that we are often unwitting, if willing, accomplices, providing personal data in exchange for security or convenience. The author reveals that in today's "information society," the personal data that we make available to virtually any organization for virtually any purpose is apt to surface elsewhere, applied to utterly different purposes. The mass collection and processing of personal information produces such tremendous efficiencies that both the public and private sector feel justified in pushing as far as they can into our private lives. And there is no easy cure. Indeed, there are many cases where privacy invasion is both hurtful to the individual and indispensable to an organization's quest for efficiency. And as long as we willingly accept the pursuit of profit, or the reduction of crime, or cutting government costs as sufficient reason for intensified scrutiny over our lives, then privacy will remain endangered.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is not a novel, yet has been read like one, not only because of a number of seemingly far-fetched privacy horror stories and of sudden realization as to what kind of society we live in; but also of its well-structured narrative that is read with ease and sometimes with mild entertainment. Indeed, Jame B. Rule is a first-rate writer and certainly knows how to deliver key messages to readers more effectively and efficiently. This is an excellent reference for readers looking for a book that encompasses a range of privacy issues we are exposed of, or forced to grapple with. It starts with current status and risky trends entailing privacy lost or ever being deteriorated; introduces how

deeply and disturbingly our privacy has been attacked, eroded, and exploited either explicitly or implicitly; then look around other peer countries, such as the U.K., France, Australia, and of course Canada, to compare how and what those developed countries are doing with regard to this seemingly endangered privacy trends. What I particularly liked in this book was in its objectiveness. Coolness. Rule never goes excessive, although sometimes the fact itself he offers is scary enough. He is neither pessimistic nor optimistic - just shows what options we have, or will have in reality, not in theory. Here is his key message: "The issues involved are ultimately ethical and political, not technological.

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