

## SoylentNews is people

### Children Are Being 'Datafied from Birth'

posted by [martyb](#) on Thursday November 08, @08:10PM

from the [I-know-what-you-did-last-summer-and-the-one-before-that-and-the-one... dept.](#)



[Phoenix666](#) writes:

[BBC](#):

The children's commissioner for England is calling on internet giants and toy-makers to be more transparent about the data they are collecting on children.

Today's children are the first to be "datafied" from birth and little thought has been given to the consequences, a report for her says.

[Who Knows What about Me?](#) calls for a statutory duty of care between social media giants and their younger users.

And it urges the government to consider strengthening data protection laws.

The report focuses on connected toys, biometric data collected by schools and the National Health Service, and social media.

[Original Submission](#)

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- **We should be outraged! (Score: 4, Funny) by [DannyB](#) on Thursday November 08, @08:35PM (1 child)**

by [DannyB \(5839\)](#) ★ on Thursday November 08, @08:35PM ([#759531](#))

How outrageous that they are putting data collection devices into the toys instead of directly into the children.

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- **Re:We should be outraged! (Score: 3, Insightful) by [The Archon V2.0](#) on Thursday November 08, @10:55PM**

by [The Archon V2.0 \(3887\)](#) on Thursday November 08, @10:55PM ([#759595](#))

Do you want YOUR child being laughed at for being the only one without a Disney Implant(TM)? We shape the scar like Mickey!

- **It's the following generation that's screwed. (Score: 0) by Anonymous Coward on Thursday November 08, @08:41PM (3 children)**

by Anonymous Coward on Thursday November 08, @08:41PM ([#759536](#))

The current smartphone & tablet generation is only teens anyhow. It's their younger siblings and offspring that are going to get the "I'm sorry your kid can't attend the enhanced math class since he didn't score high enough on Temple Run when he was 5" treatment.

- **Re:It's the following generation that's screwed. (Score: 2) by [PartTimeZombie](#) on Thursday November 08, @09:10PM (2 children)**

by [PartTimeZombie \(4827\)](#) on Thursday November 08, @09:10PM ([#759543](#))

I would be amazed if my government (or the education dept run by them) were even nearly competent enough to be able to do that.

Frankly I am sure they wouldn't even realise it was a possibility.

- **Re:It's the following generation that's screwed. (Score: 0) by Anonymous Coward on Thursday November 08, @10:10PM**

by Anonymous Coward on Thursday November 08, @10:10PM ([#759566](#))

In the west, it will start with private schools paying for Google data analysis service; Move to charity foundations handing out scholarships; And finally reach public schools.

In China it's probably already on the TODO list for the social score system.

- **Re:It's the following generation that's screwed. (Score: 2) by [FatPhil](#) on Thursday November 08, @10:43PM**

by [FatPhil \(863\)](#) <[pc-soylentNO@SPAMasdf.fi](mailto:pc-soylentNO@SPAMasdf.fi)> on Thursday November 08, @10:43PM ([#759588](#)) [Homepage](#)  
Your government isn't. It will outsource it to a company in the MIC\*.

[\* That's the Mass Information Collectors, not Military-Industrial Complex.]

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Life is a precious commodity. A wise investor would get rid of it when it has the highest value.

- **Libertarians say: remove all regulations (Score: 3, Insightful) by Anonymous Coward on Thursday November 08, @09:07PM (6 children)**

by Anonymous Coward on Thursday November 08, @09:07PM ([#759542](#))

Libertarian retards will say to remove all government regulations and that somehow, the free market will fix everything.

Somehow, without government regulations, corporations will not form monopolies, will not collect every piece of information imaginable on us and sell them to the highest bidder, will not turn our societies into a corporate fascist paradise.

But governments force us to brush our teeth and not eat all the icecream, so government = bad.

- **Re:Libertarians say: remove all regulations (Score: 4, Touché) by [PartTimeZombie](#) on Thursday November 08, @09:12PM**

by [PartTimeZombie \(4827\)](#) on Thursday November 08, @09:12PM ([#759545](#))

Libertarians say a lot of stuff. sometimes they even speak in complete sentences, I am led to believe.

The only people paying attention to Libertarians are the people who like having useful idiots.

- **Monopolies not based on government regulations? (Score: 0) by Anonymous Coward on Thursday November 08, @09:56PM**

by Anonymous Coward on Thursday November 08, @09:56PM ([#759556](#))

Tell us where you've discovered them in this real world.

Hint: patents, copyrights, trademarks, tariffs, permits all are forms of - you guessed it - government regulations.

- **Re:Libertarians say: remove all regulations (Score: 0) by Anonymous Coward on Thursday November 08, @09:57PM**

by Anonymous Coward on Thursday November 08, @09:57PM ([#759559](#))

Somehow, without government regulations, corporations will not form monopolies, will not collect every piece of information imaginable on us and sell them to the highest bidder, will not turn our societies into a corporate fascist paradise.

Regulations like chartering of Corporations, Limited Liability, grants of monopoly and mandatory participation in economic transactions? There are, of course, libertarians who are simple corporate apologists, but for many it is a moral argument of self ownership and self responsibility. Much like Richard Stallman and free software absolutists, arguments for the extreme position are necessary as a bulwark against the slow accumulation of compromises and their inevitable, unintended expansions.

- **Re:Libertarians say: remove all regulations (Score: 2) by [Unixnut](#) on Thursday November 08, @10:07PM**

by [Unixnut \(5779\)](#) on Thursday November 08, @10:07PM ([#759564](#))

Because governments have proven themselves to be honest, just and true? No government has ever profiled, tracked, spied upon, or abused those it is supposed to take care of, right? Likewise every government has done far more than pay lip service to regulations and laws it enacted, especially ones specifically placed there to limit potential governmental abuse.

Yeah, as if...

Quite frankly I don't know what is worse, big government or big corp oppressing you. I tend towards big corp being a smidgen better, because I can still choose not to do business with them. If I try to choose to not do business with government, or refuse to pay my taxes, I get locked away (or worse).

The closest to a "big corp" controlled country I can think of is the USA, whereas the closest to a "big government" controlled country I can think of is China, and I would much rather live in the USA than in China, quite frankly.

It seems to me, that any organisational structure involving more than a handful of humans turns into a machine for oppressing others, and I don't know what the solution is. Nothing so far seems to work. Not full laissez-faire markets, not full regulation, and nothing in between seems able to strike a stable balance. Perhaps humanity is condemned to cycles of destruction and rebirth, with little islets of stability as we transit from one extreme to another...

- **Re:Libertarians say: remove all regulations (Score: 1) by [schusselig](#) on Friday November 09, @05:29AM**

by [schusselig \(6771\)](#) ★ on Friday November 09, @05:29AM ([#759728](#))

The free market doesn't fix problems suffered by the products. When you receive services for free, you are not the customer. When you willingly submit to and facilitate the collection of surveillance of yourself and those around you, you are the problem.

- **Re:Libertarians say: remove all regulations (Score: 1) by [khallo](#) on Friday November 09, @01:10PM**

by [khallo \(3766\)](#) ★ on Friday November 09, @01:10PM ([#759835](#)) [Journal](#)

Libertarians say: remove all regulations

Not true. Sure, some do. But some don't.

When you start with a straw man, you can't get anywhere rational. The thing to remember about libertarianism, like a lot of beliefs that threaten the status quo, is that they exist in the first place because something is not right. Merely mocking the belief as idiocy doesn't change the imbalance. Fix the imbalance and it won't matter that there's someone out there who thinks tax is theft.

Libertarian retards will say to remove all government regulations and that somehow, the free market will fix everything.

What is missed here is that free markets do indeed fix a number of things that you are complaining about and a number of problems you don't. For example, monopolies. Even when there is an actual monopoly (rather than the typical imaginary ones), free markets provide an avenue to overcome that (that is, lower barrier to entry by their very existence). Meanwhile we have plenty of examples, large and small of government's power to create enduring monopolies, cartels, etc.

will not collect every piece of information imaginable on us and sell them to the highest bidder

And the current heavily regulated markets are helping how? This is just like the \*IAA approach - using the law to enforce a bad model. Information wants to be free, remember? As long as something requires extensive collection of data, it's going to be abused whether the collector of the data is a business or a government. At least, one can sue (yes, I have no problems with the courts enforcing laws and abuses of business) businesses for that abuse.

But governments force us to brush our teeth and not eat all the icecream, so government = bad.

Except of course, when government stuffs us with ice cream and forces us not to brush our teeth. They do bad things too. This is a typical clueless authoritarian viewpoint. Because we need government for some things, doesn't mean that we need to excuse their abuses.

There is this ridiculous assumption that somehow because businesses can corrupt current regulations and the regulatory process, we need more regulation that somehow won't be corrupted by business.

Finally, the thing about businesses is that there are hundreds of thousands of significant businesses in the world. Meanwhile, there are about 200 countries (and a number of state-equivalent actors like organized crime or rebel groups) in the world each with a near monopoly on a variety of activities and powers in the region of its control, some which are the untested powers of the world today. No business has that kind of power. Yet again and again, we see complaints about Google's data collection of web browsing habits rather than tax agencies' collection of massive amounts of financial information or the US intelligence collection of enormous quantities of communication data.

- **IoT - internet of toys (Score: 1, Touché) by Anonymous Coward on Thursday November 08, @09:59PM (1 child)**

by Anonymous Coward on Thursday November 08, @09:59PM ([#759560](#))

Because getting spied upon is not reserved for adults.

*Don't suspect a friend, report him.* -- Terry Gilliam's Brazil

- **Re:IoT - internet of toys (Score: 2) by [inertnet](#) on Thursday November 08, @10:53PM**

by [inertnet \(4071\)](#) on Thursday November 08, @10:53PM ([#759593](#))

And soon enough: IoH - Internet of Humans.

- **That's Nothing (Score: 1, Informative) by Anonymous Coward on Thursday November 08, @10:09PM (1 child)**

by Anonymous Coward on Thursday November 08, @10:09PM ([#759565](#))

Many U.S. states require mandatory blood test screening for all newborns. What is done with these samples is often buried in boilerplate smallprint, but unless the new parents are extremely diligent, [all samples may be stored indefinitely](#) [babysfirsttest.org] and used for whatever purpose the labs (and State) choose. With the falling costs of genetic sequencing and raising prevalence of genetic databases, this will become a very attractive opportunity.

- **Re:That's Nothing (Score: 3, Informative) by [MostCynical](#) on Friday November 09, @01:43AM**

by [MostCynical \(2589\)](#) on Friday November 09, @01:43AM ([#759644](#))

Blood samples are stored until child is 18 in at least one [Australian State](#). [nsw.gov.au]

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tau = 300. Greek circles must have been weird.

- **Facebook (Score: 4, Insightful) by [corey](#) on Thursday November 08, @10:38PM (1 child)**

by [corey \(2202\)](#) on Thursday November 08, @10:38PM ([#759585](#))

Got two under the age of 3, we have always asked friends and family to not share photos of our kids on Facebook and if part of group photo, not tag them. People seemed to think it was archaic but we stick to it. Also no smart toys, mostly just old school stuff. The new toys with recorded sounds and voices are so shallow anyway. And they all have American accents. Here in Oz, it's "zed" not "zee".

And so far not allowed eldest to use much mobile phones or computers. Occasional TV.

With all the reading and talking we do, the eldest is doing well, others say they're quite advanced compared to other kids. Shrugs.

- **Re:Facebook (Score: 2) by [kazzie](#) on Friday November 09, @08:26AM**

by [kazzie \(5309\)](#) ★ on Friday November 09, @08:26AM ([#759775](#))

My wife has studiously avoided any mention of our kids on Facebook etc. since the birth of our first child; I've just avoided Facebook instead.

Our three-year-old gets to play on an old tablet on weekend mornings (the wif's broken on it, which is very convenient). She also enjoys playing Sonic the Hedgehog on our Mega Drive, and plays with a 3DS at her grandparents'. There's probably a bit too much TV in the mix, but she's doing well bilingually (Welsh/English) at home and at nursery school.

- **calling on (Score: 0) by Anonymous Coward on Friday November 09, @01:21AM**

by Anonymous Coward on Friday November 09, @01:21AM ([#759636](#))

They're "...calling on..." them? How sweet. How about a rectal 4x4?

(1)

*Early to bed and early to rise and you'll be groggy when everyone else is wide awake.*