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The invasion of privacy

Sarah: Wentworth, do you know what a cookie is? Every time I open a website on my computer or my smartphone, there is a window opening asking if I accept cookies...

W: actually cookies are like spies, they represent a way of watching consumers without their consent. When you visit a shoes website for instance, a cookie is automatically downloaded on your computer, and next time you are surfing the web, you'll see advertisements for the shoes you watched earlier.

Sarah: how impressive! As Georges Orwell said in "1984", "Big Brother is watching you"! So do you mean that our right to be left alone is gradually disappearing?

W: exactly, we're heading for an even more wired, over intrusive, privacy-deprived planet. I've heard that mobile phone operators and internet providers now have to retain data of all private calls for a year.

Sarah: I guess terrorism forces governments to reconsider the frontier between security and civil liberties and even if you are very careful, hackers may manage to impersonate you.

W: Definitely. Hanging on to privacy and intimacy in a global village of hundreds of millions seems to be somewhat illusory. And once the right to privacy is taken away, it is never returned...



GLOSSARY:

The invasion of privacy	A smartphone
To open	A window
To accept	A spy, some spies
To represent	A way
To watch	Consumers
To visit	Consent
To download	Shoes
To surf the web	Advertisements
To see/saw/seen	Big Brother
To be left alone	Our right
To disappear	Wired
To head for	Over intrusive
To retain	Privacy-deprived
To force	Planet
To reconsider	Mobile phone operators
To be careful	Internet provider
To manage	Data
To impersonate	Private calls
To hang on	Terrorism
To take away	Governments
To return	The frontier
A cookie	Security
A website	Civil liberties
A computer	Hackers
Privacy	Hundreds of millions
Intimacy	Somewhat
A global village	Illusory
Without	Earlier
Impressive	Once



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