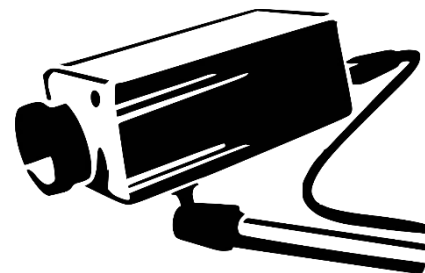


## Monitoring, Surveillance, or Spying?

### Warm up

- Do you think personal privacy has increased or decreased in recent years? Why?
- Is personal privacy important to you, or do you not think about it much?
- Do you believe that there is a “fine line” between surveillance and spying?
- What methods can employers use to monitor their employees if they work from home? Does your employer use any of these methods?



### 1. Read the article and mark the statements below true or false.

Chinese police have used facial recognition software to locate and arrest a wanted man at a pop concert with an audience of over 60,000. The Chinese authorities announced the arrest at a press conference, claiming it proves the effectiveness of the software and their vast security camera network, but are refusing to release any information on the man other than that he was wanted for “economic crimes.”

The system is so efficient at identifying faces that the man didn't even hear the first song of the concert. “He was completely shocked when we took him away” said police officer Li Jin “He couldn't believe that police could capture him so quickly in a crowd of 60,000.” However, this incident is not unprecedented. In August of last year police arrested 25 people at a beer festival using the same facial recognition software.

China has an enormous surveillance system of over 180 million security cameras, and more CCTV cameras per capita than any other country. Many Chinese human rights groups have voiced their concern at the implications of having such a large surveillance network paired with software capable of finding an individual in seconds, but the Chinese government says the system will only be used to find wanted criminals.

- The Chinese government tried to keep the arrest a secret. *True / False*
- The Chinese government is keeping the man's identity secret. *True / False*
- The man was arrested at the end of the concert. *True / False*
- This is the first time this software has been used. *True / False*
- China has more security cameras per person than any other country. *True / False*
- There are many organisations inside China that are worried about the software. *True / False*

2. With a partner, rate the following forms of surveillance on a scale of acceptable to intrusive (on a scale of 1 to 10). Use the phrases in the green box

No way, that shouldn't be legal	It's a necessary evil	I don't see why not
I find that really intrusive	I'm in favour of that	It's creepy
That makes sense to me	That creeps me out	I think that's reasonable
It seems alright to me	That makes me uncomfortable	That's an invasion of privacy



- Mandatory registration of sim cards to record the owner and the activity.
- Requiring ID for all flights, even domestic flights.
- Asking employees who work from home to keep their webcams on at all times.
- Security drones flying above prisons equipped with cameras and tasers.
- Facial recognition software which can locate a person's Facebook profile and other social media from a single photo.
- Tracking people's internet movement in order to show them more targeted advertisements.
- Asking employees to complete a daily log which shows what they did with their working hours.
- Making all convicted criminals "register" each time they move to a new area.
- Virtual assistants such as Alexa and Siri "listening" at all times.
- Prospective employers thoroughly checking job applicants' social media and digital footprint.
- Landlords having the ability to see a detailed financial history and credit check for prospective tenants.
- Body scanners at airports capable of seeing through clothes.





3. You are going to listen to a podcast about surveillance in the workplace that uses the following vocabulary. Match the underlined words or phrases to their definitions, and then ask your partner the questions.

1. When you have to do something you really don't want to, do you do it immediately or do you procrastinate? *D*
  2. What is the best way to deal with an overbearing boss? *C*
  3. What is something you always need to keep an eye on at work? *F*
  4. When was the last time you bumped into someone you know? Were you happy to see them? *A*
  5. Have you seen or read any books or movies set in a dystopian world? Did you like them, or are they too depressing? *D*
  6. Do you think binge drinking is a big problem in your country? *B*
- a) *To unexpectedly see someone you know.*
  - b) *To do something excessively.*
  - c) *Describes a person or institution that tries to control and check everything in an overly dominant or forceful way.*
  - d) *To put something off that needs to be done, usually by doing another task instead.*
  - e) *Describes a society or world in which there is great suffering and injustice.*
  - f) *To observe something carefully.*



4. Listen to the first 8 minutes of the podcast "[Is your boss spying on you?](#)"<sup>1</sup> and answer the questions.

1. How many apps had the female host already used that morning? *30*
2. What are some of the reasons the hosts feel like working from home is not necessarily easier than working at the office? *It's harder to communicate, it's harder to leave work behind, harder to work effectively because of isolation and communication issues.*
3. The host talks about software at "the extreme end" of employee monitoring software. What are some of the things this can software do? *It can track how many times you hit the keyboard, can let your manager watch you whenever they want, it can let your manager control your mouse whenever they want to.*
4. Why is the female host so surprised by the name "Terramind"? *The name sounds like "terrormind"*
5. What do you think of the companies that make employee monitoring software? Are they providing a necessary service? Or are they helping employers spy on their staff?

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.theguardian.com/news/audio/2021/jan/06/is-your-boss-spying-on-you-podcast?CMP=Share\\_iOSApp\\_Other](https://www.theguardian.com/news/audio/2021/jan/06/is-your-boss-spying-on-you-podcast?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other)