

# Bruce Schneier: The Hidden Battles to Collect Your Data

**Commonwealth Club of California talk:**

**Tue, Mar 10 2015 - 6:30pm**

<http://www.commonwealthclub.org/events/2015-03-10/bruce-schneier-hidden-battles-collect-your-data>

[https://www.schneier.com/books/data\\_and\\_goliath/](https://www.schneier.com/books/data_and_goliath/)

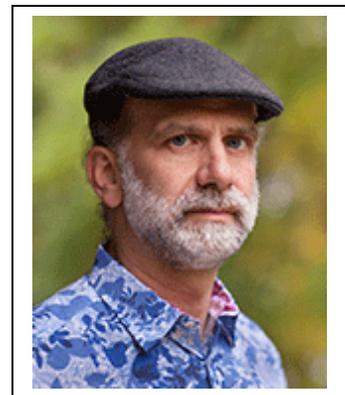
Key points summarized by Bill Densmore from listening to audio:

- We should want to make sure that the personalization aspect of Big Data – the ability to track what each of us does, isn't used to “marginalize people” – to make judgements about things like health or insurance that are inherently discriminatory. The only way to prevent that happening is laws, in his view, because absent laws, technology will gather whatever data there's a market for and government will gather whatever data it needs to exert social control. You can't just let markets and the NSA decide, Schneier believes. **“This is an area where we need policy solutions, because the technical solutions are so limited.”**
- Most data is owned by third parties.
- We need to insist on “algorithmic transparency” in many applications.
- The current situation of unrestrained data collection cannot stand; **we have to move from thinking solutions are impossible to thinking they are inevitable.**
- What we should all do: “Observe surveillance and talk about surveillance, because this issue matters a lot.”

QUICK BACKGROUND ON SPEAKER: <https://www.schneier.com/>  
**Shari Steele**, Executive Director, Electronic Frontier Foundation – Moderator

**Bruce Schneier**, Chief Technology Officer, Co3 Systems; Fellow, Berkman Center for Internet and Society, Harvard Law School; Author, *Data and Goliath: The Hidden Battles to Collect Your Data and Control Your World* and contributing writer to *The Guardian*.

“I've been writing about security issues on my blog since 2004, and in my monthly newsletter since 1998. I write books, articles, and academic papers. Currently, I'm the Chief Technology Officer of Resilient Systems, a fellow at Harvard's Berkman Center, and a board member of the Electronic Frontier Foundation.”



PROGRAM PROMOTION:

Data is everywhere. We create it every time we go online, turn our phone on (or off!) or pay with a credit card. This data is stored, studied and bought and sold by corporations and governments for surveillance, profit and control. “Foremost security expert” (*Wired*) and best-selling author Bruce Schneier shows how this data has led to a double-edged Internet: a Web that gives power to the people but is abused by the institutions on which those people depend. In *Data and Goliath*, Schneier reveals the full extent of surveillance, censorship and propaganda in society today, examining the risks of cybercrime, cyberterrorism and cyberwar. He shares technological, legal and social solutions that can help shape a more equal, private and secure world.