HotSpot Episode 16: Big Brother is Watching

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This week on *WDD's* HotSpot:

- The news wires [1] have been saturated with the leaked details of the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) called PRISM, which has been collecting phone records from Verizon customers under a top-secret government order. According to a top-secret document [2] obtained by the Washington post [3]: "The NSA and FBI are tapping directly into the central servers of nine leading U.S. Internet companies [...] [enabling] analysts to track one target or trace a whole network of associates."
- DARPA's [4] Adaptable Sensor System, or ADAPT program is looking to smart phone technologies and practices to create new ground sensors. DARPA is focusing on three areas to develop low-cost common Intelligence, Surveillance, and Recon hardware and software for mission specific applications. The three areas of focus include:

1. Reusable hardware cores that use low-cost, off-the-shelf commercial components.
2. Reusable software that develops common software for processing, storage, communications, orientation, and other tasks.
3. And Sensor-Specific applications that use common software and hardware.

- HP has unveiled its all-in-one pc, the ENVY Rove 20, which allows Windows 8 [5], multi-touch enjoyment. The PC features a 20-inch, 1600x900 IPS LED panel with an ambient light sensor to auto adjust the brightness. The device also features Beats Audio sound through dual speakers and a built-in subwoofer, wireless technology that runs up to 802.11ac 2x2 with Bluetooth 4.0, and a media slot and HD webcam.
- Italian start-up 2045Tech [6] has introduced its Floome pocket breathalyzer [7] for smartphones, which measures blood alcohol content (BAC) with the same level of accuracy as those used by law enforcement. If the system decides that you're over the limit, there's an option to call a taxi.Professional-grade fuel cell sensors are used for greater accuracy, producing almost the same results as equipment used by the police, with a standard deviation of less than 10 percent. It also incorporates a patent-pending vortex whistle to measure breath flow rate and volume to ensure it has collected a sufficient sample.

Do you have story ideas? Comment below or email wdd_web@advantagemedia.com [8] we'll cover them in an upcoming episode.

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