



**Skynet - is it happening?  
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The information gathered by the Reform Government Surveillance (RGS) coalition - headed by Microsoft, Google, Twitter, Yahoo and Facebook is used to map and track our lives. This consistent mapping of the Internet marks not only a threat to our human rights, civil liberties and our personal security but could also constitute a clear and realistic threat to national security. The power of those companies to control the internet and ultimately self regulate themselves and their resistance to the Investigatory Powers Bill possibly demonstrates the promotion of self interest over national security.

The RGS coalition's power and resources grow year on year and whilst the draft Investigatory Powers Bill will seek to attempt to utilise their systems for the benefit of national security, there is a possibility that there is little that any government can do ultimately to protect itself from the rise of the RGS who are ultimately very protective of their proprietary technology.

To support this proposition, the paper will look at the actions taken by the RGS to question surveillance law reforms introduced by the US and UK governments.