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## **who is harvesting your contacts**

Though the most visible action, fighting against ACTA is just one of the attempts to decrease opportunities for somebody else to control our lives. Lately also the news on Twitter "harvesting smartphone contacts" brought up to date the discussion about the "black boxes" - devices surrounding us in the daily life, having features and applications we don't even know.

In these moments it's handy to remember the perspective of activists hacking media as well as people calling themselves "critical engineers":

"Some technological innovations contain hidden features, or hidden functions which end-user was not made aware of and which are in direct violation of end-user agreement, or privacy agreement, or, one might even say, general human rights. And for critical engineer that is one of the primary goals - to expose these moments of deception, moments of imbalance between the human (user) and technology itself. So, I often see myself as watchdog, who is looking at the products, which are being given to us by manufacturers as Microsoft, Apple, and to break those black boxes open and to see what's inside: how it actually works and what it actually does, not just by looking at its interface, its designed output, or expected output."

(From MAŠTA #8 UNEXPECTED (upcoming soon) article "Healthy dose of paranoia," interview with Danja Vasiliev.)

Topic:  
media  
hacking  
activism

Place:  
Berlin  
Everywhere

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