

# Judge orders Google to comply with FBI's secret NSL demands

A federal judge tells the company to comply with the FBI's warrantless National Security Letter requests for user details, despite ongoing concerns about their constitutionality.

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(Credit: Getty Images)

A federal judge has ruled that Google must comply with the FBI's warrantless requests for confidential user data, despite the search company's arguments that the secret demands are illegal.

CNET has learned that U.S. District Judge Susan Illston in San Francisco rejected Google's [request to modify](http://www.cnet.com/8301-13578_3-57577958-38/google-fights-fbis-warrantless-data-requests-in-federal-court/) [[http://www.cnet.com/8301-13578\\_3-57577958-38/google-fights-fbis-warrantless-data-requests-in-federal-court/](http://www.cnet.com/8301-13578_3-57577958-38/google-fights-fbis-warrantless-data-requests-in-federal-court/)] or throw out 19 so-called National Security Letters, a warrantless [electronic data-gathering technique](http://www.cnet.com/Judge-disarms-Patriot-Act-proviso/2100-1028_3-5388764.html) [[http://www.cnet.com/Judge-disarms-Patriot-Act-proviso/2100-1028\\_3-5388764.html](http://www.cnet.com/Judge-disarms-Patriot-Act-proviso/2100-1028_3-5388764.html)] used by the FBI that does not need a judge's approval. Her ruling came after a pair of top FBI officials, including an assistant director, submitted classified affidavits.

The litigation taking place behind closed doors in Illston's courtroom -- a closed-to-the-public hearing was held on May 10 -- could set new ground rules curbing the FBI's warrantless access to information that Internet and other companies hold on behalf of their users. The FBI [issued](http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/tech/news/internetprivacy/2010-08-02-FBI-email-access_N.htm?csp=34) [[http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/tech/news/internetprivacy/2010-08-02-FBI-email-access\\_N.htm?csp=34](http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/tech/news/internetprivacy/2010-08-02-FBI-email-access_N.htm?csp=34)] 192,499 of the demands from 2003 to 2006, and 97 percent of NSLs include a mandatory gag order.

## Related posts

- [Justice Department tries to force Google to hand over user data](http://www.cnet.com/8301-13578_3-57587005-38/justice-department-tries-to-force-google-to-hand-over-user-data/) [[http://www.cnet.com/8301-13578\\_3-57587005-38/justice-department-tries-to-force-google-to-hand-over-user-data/](http://www.cnet.com/8301-13578_3-57587005-38/justice-department-tries-to-force-google-to-hand-over-user-data/)]
- [Kim Dotcom wins access to seized property from 2012 raid](http://www.cnet.com/8301-1009_3-57587026-83/kim-dotcom-wins-access-to-seized-property-from-2012-raid/) [[http://www.cnet.com/8301-1009\\_3-57587026-83/kim-dotcom-wins-access-to-seized-property-from-2012-raid/](http://www.cnet.com/8301-1009_3-57587026-83/kim-dotcom-wins-access-to-seized-property-from-2012-raid/)]
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[sells-customer-data-from-phone-firms/1](#)

- **Survey: Most teens take steps to protect their privacy (podcast)**  
[http://www.cnet.com/8301-19518\\_3-57585418-238/survey-most-teens-take-steps-to-protect-their-privacy-podcast/1](http://www.cnet.com/8301-19518_3-57585418-238/survey-most-teens-take-steps-to-protect-their-privacy-podcast/1)

It wasn't a complete win for the Justice Department, however: Illston all but invited Google to try again, stressing that the company has only raised broad arguments, not ones "specific to the 19 NSLs at issue." She also reserved judgment on two of the 19 NSLs, saying she wanted the government to "provide further information" prior to making a decision.

NSLs are controversial because they allow FBI officials to send secret requests to Web and telecommunications companies requesting "name, address, length of service," and other account information about users as long as it's relevant to a national security investigation. No court approval is required, and disclosing the existence of the FBI's secret requests is not permitted.

Because of the extreme secrecy requirements, documents in the San Francisco case remain almost entirely under seal. Even Google's identity is redacted from Illston's four-page opinion, which was dated May 20 and remained undisclosed until now. But, citing initial filings, Bloomberg [disclosed \[http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-04-04/google-fights-u-s-national-security-probe-data-demand.html\]](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-04-04/google-fights-u-s-national-security-probe-data-demand.html) last month that it was Google that had initiated the legal challenge.

While the FBI's authority to levy NSL demands predates the Patriot Act, it was that controversial 2001 law that dramatically expanded NSLs by broadening their use beyond espionage-related investigations. The Patriot Act also authorized FBI officials across the country, instead of only in Washington, D.C., to send NSLs.

#### EFF's separate challenge

Illston, who is [stepping down \[http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci\\_23228739/san-mateo-judge-line-silicon-valley-federal-judgeship\]](http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_23228739/san-mateo-judge-line-silicon-valley-federal-judgeship) from her post in July, said another reason for her decision is her desire not to interfere while the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals is reviewing the constitutionality of NSLs in an unrelated case that she also oversaw.

In that separate [lawsuit \[https://www.eff.org/cases/re-matter-2011-national-security-letter\]](https://www.eff.org/cases/re-matter-2011-national-security-letter) brought by the Electronic Frontier Foundation on behalf of an unnamed telecommunications company, Illston dealt a harsh blow to the bureau's use of NSLs.

EFF had challenged the constitutionality of the portion of federal law that imposes nondisclosure requirements and limits judicial review of NSLs. Illston ruled that the NSL requirements "violate the First Amendment and separation of powers principles" and barred the FBI from invoking that language "in this or any other case." But she gave the Obama administration 90 days to appeal to the Ninth Circuit, which it did [on May 6 \[https://www.eff.org/node/742721\]](https://www.eff.org/node/742721).

Neither the FBI nor Google responded to requests for comment. (In March, Google began [publishing \[http://www.cnet.com/8301-1009\\_3-57572634-83/google-offers-data-on-fbis-national-security-related-requests-for-user-identities/1\]](http://www.cnet.com/8301-1009_3-57572634-83/google-offers-data-on-fbis-national-security-related-requests-for-user-identities/1) summary statistics about NSLs it received, making it the first major Internet company to do so.)

These aren't the first cases to tackle whether NSLs, including gag orders, are constitutional or not. In a 2008 ruling ([PDF \[http://www.aclu.org/files/pdfs/safefree/doevmukasey\\_decision.pdf\]](http://www.aclu.org/files/pdfs/safefree/doevmukasey_decision.pdf)), the Second Circuit Court of Appeals handed down a mixed decision.

A three-judge panel of the Second Circuit took an odd approach: the judges agreed that the "challenged statutes do not comply with the First Amendment" but went on to rewrite the statute on their own to make it more constitutional. They drafted new requirements, including that FBI officials may levy a gag order only when they claim an "enumerated harm" to an investigation related to international terrorism or intelligence will result.

Illston's decision in the Google NSL case said that the FBI had submitted "classified" evidence "intended to demonstrate that the 19 NSLs were issued in full compliance with the procedural and substantive requirements imposed by the Second Circuit."

That includes classified declarations submitted by [Stephanie Douglas \[http://www.fbi.gov/news/pressrel/press-releases/stephanie-douglas-named-executive-assistant-director-of-national-security-branch\]](http://www.fbi.gov/news/pressrel/press-releases/stephanie-douglas-named-executive-assistant-director-of-national-security-branch), executive assistant director of the FBI's national security branch, and [Robert Anderson \[http://www.fbi.gov/news/pressrel/press-releases/robert-](http://www.fbi.gov/news/pressrel/press-releases/robert-anderson)

**anderson-jr.-named-assistant-director-of-the-counterintelligence-division**, assistant director of the counterintelligence division at FBI headquarters.

A 2007 report [[http://www.cnet.com/Report-FBIs-snooping-did-not-follow-rules/2100-1028\\_3-6166015.html](http://www.cnet.com/Report-FBIs-snooping-did-not-follow-rules/2100-1028_3-6166015.html)] by the Justice Department's inspector general found "serious misuse" of NSLs, and FBI director Robert Mueller pledged stricter internal controls. Mueller **has also called** [[http://www.cnet.com/FBI-chief-blames-computers-for-privacy-flap/2100-1028\\_3-6170995.html](http://www.cnet.com/FBI-chief-blames-computers-for-privacy-flap/2100-1028_3-6170995.html)] the investigative technique invaluable.

**Update 10 a.m. PT:** In a previously unreported lawsuit in Manhattan, the Justice Department **has asked a judge** [[http://www.cnet.com/8301-13578\\_3-57587005-38/justice-department-tries-to-force-google-to-hand-over-user-data/](http://www.cnet.com/8301-13578_3-57587005-38/justice-department-tries-to-force-google-to-hand-over-user-data/)] to grant its "petition to enforce" a NSL that the FBI sent to Google for confidential user data. The search company is fighting the request.

[<http://www.cnet.com/profile/declan00/>]

**About Declan McCullagh** [<http://www.cnet.com/profile/declan00/>]

**Declan McCullagh** [<http://www.mccullagh.org/>] is the chief political correspondent for CNET. Declan previously was a reporter for Time and the Washington bureau chief for Wired and wrote the Taking Liberties section and Other People's Money column for CBS News' Web site.

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**10 Worst Cities for Singles**kiplinger.com [<http://www.kiplinger.com/slideshow/real-estate/To06-S001-10-worst-cities-for-singles/index.html?cid=42>]

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**[JTW218 \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/JTW218\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/JTW218)**

One would question.

Cannot the FBI find people who wish to do harm on this country without trampling all over the Rights of the American Citizen?

They want to use the internet and Service Providers to put in a key list of red flag words, Speech, Language and other forms which might indeed be a prelude to a terrorist act.

So basically, the FBI, CIA and NSA have all gotten to dependent on Electronic Media to warrant actual field work and investigation. So in stead of Federal Bureau of Investigation, how does Federal Bureau of Internet sound?

**[Linux Now \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/Linux+Now\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Linux+Now)**

Secret lawsuits to combat secret enforcement of laws with secret interpretations known only to those who secretly enforce them.

Google seems to be the only outfit who have figured out that users may increasingly bail out of gmail and other services if these are to be nothing more than a repository for arbitrary mining by government snoops.

**[lover1957 \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/lover1957\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/lover1957)**

another lawsuit in the working like with what has been going on with irs

**[BurgerBeth \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/BurgerBeth\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/BurgerBeth)**

This is okay as long as we can catch guys like those Boston bombers before they can blow....wait a minute. Scratch that.

**[Squashman2 \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/Squashman2\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Squashman2)**

Am I understanding this correctly? The Government wants companies like Google to give them information about me without a warrant and not even tell me that they are giving it to them? Kind of having your cake and eating it too.

**[DocScience \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/DocScience\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/DocScience)**

Had enough government yet?

Or do you need SOME MORE?

Restore the rule of law. Restore the Constitution.

**[GringoB \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/GringoB\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/GringoB)**

Facebook, Twitter and Google reveal personal info. Just be careful what you post....

**[jnibrahim \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/jnibrahim\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/jnibrahim)**

I think the big problem is that the Gov't is trying fix the problem by avoiding the process vs fixing the process. If they would use their energy to optimize (faster and cheaper) the way things get done (the way how companies try to be more profitable) than the problem is fixed for everyone and not just the special 3 letter agencies.

**[Allen\\_Wentz \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/Allen\\_Wentz\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Allen_Wentz)**

**[@jnibrahim \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/jnibrahim\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/jnibrahim)**

Sorry but I do not think the gov is trying to fix a problem. The gov and LEOs are plain and simply doing their level best to get around the Bill of Rights just like LEOs have always done.

**[Ralwal \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/Ralwal\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Ralwal)**

The sad thing is we all play into what they want placing blame on political parties, different groups in government when in reality including myself we are all to blame. We want to set back and let someone else take care of the problems and dictate what is good and bad for you and me. If we give them the power and not pay attention to them, They will use it against us in the end

**[DorkTroller \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/DorkTroller\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/DorkTroller)**

What is the judge's reasoning for using the Constitution as a tampon?

**[garylee1234 \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/garylee1234\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/garylee1234)**

Come on Googlele....grow some cajones and tell them to go to hell. No warrant...no info.

**[aisxray \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/aisxray\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/aisxray)**

The Republic is dead. We now live in a fascist reality where the law is secret.... and the protection under the law in null and void.

**[cornfused1963 \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/cornfused1963\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/cornfused1963)**

**[@aisxray \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/aisxray\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/aisxray)** - it is no sin to resist tyranny

**[eb\\_p1 \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/eb\\_p1\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/eb_p1)**

Get ready for a Google-Yandex merger, your hard earned tax dollars and politicians at work. Sad thing is, if FBI wasn't full of lumbering brutes and their demands reasonable, Google might try to accommodate some of them. Good place to start would be reading the US Constitution.

**[GizaDog \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/GizaDog\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/GizaDog)**

Its all for national security. We need more lube!

**[The\\_Libertarian \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/The\\_Libertarian\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/The_Libertarian)**

My God! The Bush administration is out of control! They are destroying our civil liberties and turning us into a police state!

Wait. What?

Boy oh boy, I sure am glad we have the Democrats protecting us from the evils of Big Brother. Aren't you?

### **[Red2678 \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/Red2678\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Red2678)**

[@The\\_Libertarian \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/The\\_Libertarian\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/The_Libertarian) That's great..... :D

### **[SheepSheepAndMoreSheep \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/SheepSheepAndMoreSheep\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/SheepSheepAndMoreSheep)**

[@The\\_Libertarian \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/The\\_Libertarian\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/The_Libertarian) And yet all of the rules/laws being used here were all ushered in via the Bush Administration.

[om/profile/declan00\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/declan00)

[@SheepSheepAndMoreSheep](http://www.cnet.com/profile/SheepSheepAndMoreSheep)

[@The\\_Libertarian](http://www.cnet.com/profile/SheepSheepAndMoreSheep)

[@The\\_Libertarian](http://www.cnet.com/profile/The_Libertarian) The Patriot Act, which significantly expanded

NSLs, cleared the Senate by a vote of 98 to 1. Lots of bipartisan enthusiasm for

it. [http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_lists/roll\\_call\\_vote\\_cfm.cfm?](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=107&session=1&vote=00313)

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[http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_lists/roll\\_call\\_vote\\_cfm.cfm?](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=107&session=1&vote=00313)

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[@The\\_Libertarian](http://www.cnet.com/profile/SheepSheepAndMoreSheep)

[@The\\_Libertarian](http://www.cnet.com/profile/The_Libertarian) this was also during a point in time where

voting against acts that "helped fight terrorism" was seen as political suicide, so take that

bipartisanship with a grain of salt

### **[SheepSheepAndMoreSheep \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/SheepSheepAndMoreSheep\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/SheepSheepAndMoreSheep)**

[@adoc1 \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/adoc1\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/adoc1) [@declan00](http://www.cnet.com/profile/declan00)

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[@The\\_Libertarian](http://www.cnet.com/profile/SheepSheepAndMoreSheep)

[@The\\_Libertarian](http://www.cnet.com/profile/The_Libertarian) And what is even more disgusting...

Members from both sides of the aisle voted it in without even reading it. Many even admitted to such after it was passed.

Make note that I am not defending either side. I am condemning both sides. They are not there for their own gains while turning a blind eye. They are supposed to be representing us. And our rights given to us by the constitution.

This really is not a RIGHT OR LEFT issue. THIS IS A ATTACK ON OUR RIGHTS. The longer we spend fighting one another. The more time we allow the concrete to dry.

And Mr Libertarian...If we are going to remain bipartisan on this issue. Why is it you were quick

to point fingers?

**[Allen\\_Wentz \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/Allen\\_Wentz\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Allen_Wentz)**

**[@declan00 \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/declan00\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/declan00)**

Actually the [un]Patriot Act came in a time when Republicans owned the full Congress and the Presidency, and was pushed through as "patriotic" such that few pols of either party had the stones to question something that was predestined to pass.

**[:om/profile/declan00\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/declan00)**

**[djh78745 \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/djh78745\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/djh78745)**

**[@Allen\\_Wentz \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/Allen\\_Wentz\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Allen_Wentz)** I wasn't aware that the **[@SheepSheepAndMoreSheep](http://www.cnet.com/profile/SheepSheepAndMoreSheep)** Republicans held a gun to the head of Democratic senators and forced them to vote for the **[@The\\_Libertarian](http://www.cnet.com/profile/SheepSheepAndMoreSheep)** Patriot Act against their will. Thanks for clearing that up. **[http://www.cnet.com/profile/The\\_Libertarian\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/The_Libertarian)** - Typical, reading comprehension not your strong suit?

**[cornfused1963 \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/cornfused1963\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/cornfused1963)**

**[@SheepSheepAndMoreSheep](http://www.cnet.com/profile/SheepSheepAndMoreSheep)**

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**[http://www.cnet.com/profile/The\\_Libertarian\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/The_Libertarian)** - his comment is funny not because of bush's innocence (there is none) but because of the stupidity of the supporters of the current administration and their inability to do anything but blame bush... bush sucked, we get it. but so does this admin... you gonna call poo poo then you need to make sure all poo is called poo.

**[Misseshaze \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/Misseshaze\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Misseshaze)**

This is ridiculous. Find a better, faster way to get a warrant, not snoop into innocent citizens digital emails & etc. The FBI should know better & stop trying to over power the constitution.

**[Lerianis6 \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/Lerianis6\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Lerianis6)**

**[@Misseshaze \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/Misseshaze\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Misseshaze)**

They already have a better, faster way... it's called the FISA court. Hell, under some circumstances, they can even get a warrant after the fact.

No need for NSL's, none at all.

**[ocdev100 \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/ocdev100\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/ocdev100)**

If the FBI can go into Illston's closed courtroom to defend these NSLs then why can't they go in to visit a judge and get a warrant in the first place?

**[:om/profile/declan00\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/declan00)**

**[@ocdev100 \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/ocdev100\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/ocdev100)** This is a very good question. My hunch is that the FBI can get far more data via a single NSL, perhaps even millions of customer non-content records, than a search warrant would permit.

**[Jasonn13 \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/Jasonn13\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Jasonn13)**

Judges named Susan are the reason we have appellate courts that will hopefully follow the Constitution.

**[Lerianis6 \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/Lerianis6\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Lerianis6)**

**[@Jasonn13 \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/Jasonn13\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Jasonn13)**

Agreed. The bottom line is that these NSL's are illegal and not just that, they are unconstitutional as well. We already have the FISA court and numerous laws allowing police to justify searches 'after the fact' if there is a reasonable suspicion of danger of loss of life involved.

Why do they need to use these NSL's? It just seems like the NSA and CIA don't want ANY checks on their power.

**[bladebarrier \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/bladebarrier\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/bladebarrier)**

You drudge nuts must be freaking out that the government will know that after reading drudge report you immediately resume watching fat tranny porn.

**[Primate \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/primatebuddy\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/primatebuddy)**

**[@bladebarrier \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/bladebarrier\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/bladebarrier)** What's wrong with fat tranny porn?

**[bladebarrier \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/bladebarrier\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/bladebarrier)**

You're right, why should they be judged. Drudge nuts, watch your fat tranny porn and be proud!

**[Popcorn Dave \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/Popcorn+Dave\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Popcorn+Dave)**

**[@bladebarrier \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/bladebarrier\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/bladebarrier)** Us "drudge nuts" as you call people will be laughing our butts off when something like this is used against you and you're left screaming for help.

Apparently you're unable to grasp that this can be used against anybody and is constitutionally questionable. Is that really the kind of society you want to live in?

**[bladebarrier \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/bladebarrier\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/bladebarrier)**

Ah, so you are a hypocrite. You'll laugh your butt off if it's used against someone you don't like, but are somehow protecting us all with your outrage? Yep, that's a drudge nut.

**[RamRom2112 \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/RamRom2112\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/RamRom2112)**

**[@bladebarrier \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/bladebarrier\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/bladebarrier)** Ah, so you are a child (or an adult with a child-like mind). Think about about it! Gov't intruding on your life. telling you what to eat, what to wear, who to date (assuming you can maintain a social relationship with someone other than your cat). Is that what you want? i don't care if the gov't abuses the Constitution to harass a left wing nutjob or a right winger. power should no be abused, period!

**[The\\_Libertarian \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/The\\_Libertarian\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/The_Libertarian)**

**[@bladebarrier \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/bladebarrier\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/bladebarrier)** Liberals hate it when Drudge shines the light of day on left-wing hypocrisy.

**bladebarrier [http://www.cnet.com/profile/bladebarrier]**

Cnet wrote the article, not drudge. Also, considering this is a pretty liberal site, I rather doubt most liberals would agree with it either. You may now return to your regularly scheduled fat tranny porn knowing both sides think this bad.

[:om/profile/declan00\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/bladebarrier)

[@bladebarrier \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/bladebarrier\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/bladebarrier) Without taking a position on my colleagues' political views, I will say that CNET is headquartered in San Francisco. Not exactly a hotbed of media conservatism!

**bladebarrier [http://www.cnet.com/profile/bladebarrier]**

Ah, but drudge report linked to it, so grab your popcorn. You're about to get some serious nuts in here.

**danchimo [http://www.cnet.com/profile/danchimo]**

we get the gestapo we deserve

**GA Man [http://www.cnet.com/profile/GA\_Man]**

Am I missing something?

I thought she already ruled on this, back in March, in FAVOR of Google.

[http://www.slate.com/blogs/future\\_tense/2013/03/15/susan\\_illston\\_district\\_court\\_judge\\_declares\\_national\\_security\\_letters\\_unconstitutional.html](http://www.slate.com/blogs/future_tense/2013/03/15/susan_illston_district_court_judge_declares_national_security_letters_unconstitutional.html)

[\[http://www.slate.com/blogs/future\\_tense/2013/03/15/susan\\_illston\\_district\\_court\\_judge\\_declares\\_national\\_security\\_letters\\_unconstitutional.html\]](http://www.slate.com/blogs/future_tense/2013/03/15/susan_illston_district_court_judge_declares_national_security_letters_unconstitutional.html)

What gives?

[:om/profile/declan00\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/declan00)

[@GA Man \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/GA\\_Man\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/GA_Man) From the article: the judge "said another reason for her decision is her desire not to interfere while the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals is reviewing the constitutionality of NSLs in an unrelated case that she also oversaw"

**recon\_sgt76 [http://www.cnet.com/profile/recon\_sgt76]**

Violation of 4th Amendment, once again. Especially at a time, when the FBI and the DOJ are being investigated for criminal acts by the House Judiciary Committee. Google being Google will probably just start giving them the information anyways. Google needs to take a stance and start shredding their information, so we won't have to worry about the data mining by the government. Google other than Microsoft is the largest conglomerate in the world, they need to no comply and make it such. Unless it is just for National Security, meaning hurting our country, with terrorism, I can understand, but the way things have been going, I wouldn't be surprised if they don't have any hard evidence, just made up ideas or possible threats of national security. Just like the Utilities Companies out there, that say they are getting daily attacks over the internet...I don't believe it, that is probably made up by the government and probably have these NSL's for those so called violators.

**[davidj616 \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/davidj616\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/davidj616)**

We can all thank that little cross dresser of old, J Edgar Hoover for starting this malarky. Secret files my rear. And he was worried about the communist threat back then. He as worse than they. And know look what we have and gets worse everyday, literally.

**[Ralwal \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/Ralwal\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Ralwal)**

And the FBI ("SS" oh sorry) is the one deciding what is national security, just makes you feel all warm and fuzzy. Might as well do away with the judicial branch of government they do not have to use it! It is not protecting our rights.

**[PugPugMcPug \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/PugPugMcPug\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/PugPugMcPug)**

Our government is stepping over the line! I'm thinking that totalitarianism is the goal of the democrats.

**[dg\\_melvin \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/dg\\_melvin\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/dg_melvin)**

[@PugPugMcPug \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/PugPugMcPug\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/PugPugMcPug) What an odd, uniformed and ignorant statement. You do realize that what is being discussed is left over from the Bush administration, right? Shameful.

**[instigator24 \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/instigator24\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/instigator24)**

[@dg\\_melvin \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/dg\\_melvin\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/dg_melvin) [@PugPugMcPug \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/PugPugMcPug\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/PugPugMcPug) Let's not kid ourselves. BOTH parties are in favor of this.

**[m0ng00se9526 \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/m0ng00se9526\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/m0ng00se9526)**

[@instigator24 \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/instigator24\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/instigator24) [@dg\\_melvin \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/dg\\_melvin\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/dg_melvin) [@PugPugMcPug \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/PugPugMcPug\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/PugPugMcPug)

That is what most people fail to realize. IT is both parties that have over stepped their constitutional bounds. Now is the time to start fighting back. Even if it means using bullets.

**[iiREDNARCii \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/iiREDNARCii\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/iiREDNARCii)**

[@instigator24 \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/instigator24\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/instigator24) At least some people see the false left/right structure that holds each other up. Googles is mostly NSA ran anyway, so this is all for show, so that people will still use google. Because whos the ones sniffing peoples wifi, listening to everything they can with their "AD" engines, and theres no doubt WHAT google is. Lets find out how many people are at the Builderburg meeting this year...

**[jt102010 \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/jt102010\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/jt102010)**

[@m0ng00se9526 \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/m0ng00se9526\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/m0ng00se9526) [@instigator24 \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/instigator24\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/instigator24) [@dg\\_melvin \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/dg\\_melvin\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/dg_melvin) [@PugPugMcPug \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/PugPugMcPug\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/PugPugMcPug)

It's not some nameless, abstract, faceless "party" that is responsible for this. The American people are responsible for this. Look at this scenario:

Within one hour, a small airplane crop duster flies over a major suburb of Chicago spreading a homemade brew of small pox, a half dozen Boston style crocker pot bombs go off at an outdoor market in Seattle, and a suicide bomber walks into times square on a busy afternoon and blows himself up. The media is going haywire. There is non-stop 24/7 coverage of everything. Each and every congressman goes back to his district and faces a townhall. There is genuine fear.

Do you think, they are going to give Constitutional arguments in order to justify why we shouldn't do whatever it takes to find out where these people came from, take them out, and track down people who are planning similar attacks? I think not. If they did, they would be skewered, and every opportunist politician would be running against them in the next election.

We are getting exactly what we have demanded from our leaders, and they will not change until we do.

**[pepnm \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/pepnm\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/pepnm)**

**[@dg\\_melvin \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/dg\\_melvin\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/dg_melvin)** **[@PugPugMcPug \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/PugPugMcPug\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/PugPugMcPug)** It has nothing at all to do with anything President Bush started or did.

**[Allen\\_Wentz \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/Allen\\_Wentz\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Allen_Wentz)**

**[@pepnm \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/pepnm\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/pepnm)**

The Bush Republicans made a huge shift to further loss of privacy when they took advantage of 9/11 paranoia to push through the horrific [un]Patriot Act. In one fell swoop Bush carved a major chunk out of the fabric of our society that mere terrorists could otherwise never have done.

**[Popcorn Dave \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/Popcorn+Dave\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Popcorn+Dave)**

**[@dg\\_melvin \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/dg\\_melvin\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/dg_melvin)** **[@PugPugMcPug \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/PugPugMcPug\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/PugPugMcPug)** If it is indeed left over from the Bush administration, then why in the hell is Obama's administration continuing it?

**[Allen\\_Wentz \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/Allen\\_Wentz\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Allen_Wentz)**

**[@Popcorn Dave \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/Popcorn+Dave\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/Popcorn+Dave)**

Excellent question. I ask myself that every day, and the only conclusion I keep coming to is that "...power corrupts; absolute power corrupts absolutely."

**[ballesswonder \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/ballesswonder\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/ballesswonder)**

**[@dg\\_melvin \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/dg\\_melvin\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/dg_melvin)** **[@PugPugMcPug \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/PugPugMcPug\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/PugPugMcPug)** hahaha idiocracy as it dawns on you slowly very slowly that you are a slave

**[nmedown \[http://www.cnet.com/profile/nmedown\]](http://www.cnet.com/profile/nmedown)**

**[@PugPugMcPug](http://www.cnet.com/profile/PugPugMcPug)** All government is evil crap, there's no such thing as parties or the left and right now.

We are all one people.

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