

In a civil lawsuit evidence is gathered by civilians, not by law enforcement or intelligence officers.

What this means is that when they file a lawsuit the plaintiff and litigators will be responsible for combing through the defendant's personal metadata, not law enforcement. Storage of metadata for analysis by the government is already a massive breach of privacy, but allowing arbitrary civilians access to other's metadata just because they're filing a lawsuit against them is insanity.

This will be abused, there is no question about it.

Want to see if somebody is cheating on their wife? Just take them to court and see if they're getting any emails from dating websites or exes! Now you can blackmail them!

Want to find out who is supplying a competitor at cheaper rates than you can get, or even, want to find out who a competitor's customers are so you can poach them? Just take them to court!

Want to get the phone numbers of celebrities? Just take them to court, get their phone history and numbers, then you too can chat with the stars!

Hell, from their email addresses you could get their online nicknames and follow them around the web, even to where they think they're pseudonymous.

These are only the scenarios I can think of in 10 minutes, they don't even scratch the surface of what's possible, and it's guaranteed that someone will come up with more devious abuses.

You can't think of all possible abuses before they happen, so why not prevent them all by just not allowing this absurd invasion of privacy?