

To the Attorney-General, and all others it may concern,

I, William Brown, as a computer security expert strongly oppose this change.

To allow access to this retained data in civil cases will create a large incursion into the privacy of our citizens. One may consider this a "warrantless wiretap" allowing any company that "feels like it" to come after those who may not be able to legally defend themselves.

This change is driven by corporate interests in copyright protections. Modern technology is evolving faster than our laws can keep up. We have seen a paradigm shift and decline in piracy as streaming services and legally available content has become more readily available. This change to allow access to this data, is a scare tactic from media companies like Foxtel, who are losing ground and market share and want to "kick and scream". We have seen a sharp decline in illegal downloads, as admitted by pirate services themselves due to the accessibility of legal content.

I highly urge you to read 1984 by George Orwell. Despite being a literary masterpiece, it's a classic tale warning of the overreach of privacy invading technology. However, this department you run Attorney-General, appears to believe 1984 is a guidebook, not a warning.

Attorney-General, I think that this is a dangerous change, and one motivated on a whim. I would ask that it is your duty and role to protect the legal interests of all in the Commonwealth of Australia, not just a small number of businesses. We have millions of citizens of this country, and this change acts in the interest of a few of them.

I pose to you the following two questions.

First, would you allow your metadata to be publicised for a year, so that we may "see" what you have been doing. If it is "harmless", please provide it to the public through freedom of information channels.

Second, I would ask you to justify the benefit of this change to the populace. How do I the citizen benefit from this change? How does this change help to grow and improve innovation and our country?

Sincerely,

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William Brown