

Impact Handout, One handout per mini-group, not turned in

We read three articles about the ethics surrounding widely available cryptography:

- The first article from 1994 is about the Bush/Clinton administration pushing the adoption of the Clipper chip, giving the government backdoor access to encrypted data.
- The second article from 1995 is about the announcement of PGP, which made encrypted email publicly available and fought against the Clipper chip.
- The third article from September 2023 is about the UK wanting to scan messages sent on platforms like Whatsapp and Signal (which have end-to-end encryption).

The tradeoff between privacy and security is an ongoing debate. Now we ask you to assess the ethics of widely available (and potentially unbreakable) encryption.

- A. What are some benefits of the government having backdoor access to encryption algorithms?
- B. What are some dangers of the government having backdoor access to encryption algorithms?
- C. How does Britain's proposed law on encryption have both positive and negative effects?
- D. Can you identify some daily situations in which you would and wouldn't want widely available and unbreakable encryption?