

BUSINESS, SOCIETY & ETHICS

Debate #5: This House Believes Apple Must Open Encryption Backdoors to National Security Agencies

As you read the material for our next class, keep the questions below in mind. To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages. Keep in mind that there are two basic kinds of information that you need to look for in the reading:

1. What are the main points or conclusions that an author accepts with respect to a particular issue?
2. What are the reasons, important considerations, and evidence that lead the author to accept that conclusion?

For our purposes, *it is information of the second sort that will be our primary concern* since our most basic task is to *evaluate the reasons and evidence* that are offered to support accepting one possible conclusion about an issue, rather than another.

Although I strongly suggest that you write out brief answers to these questions, you do not have to turn in written responses. You do, however, need to be prepared to speak intelligently about these issues at our next class meeting.

Readings

- Michael D. Shear, David E. Sanger & Katie Benner, "In the Apple Case, a Debate Over Data Hits Home".
- Anita Balakrishnan, "Calls Grow for Government Back Doors to Encryption".
- Tim Cook, "A Message to Our Customers".
- Michael D. Shear, "Obama, at South by Southwest, Calls for Law Enforcement Access in Encryption Fight".
- William J. Bratton & John J. Miller, "Seeking iPhone Data, Through the Front Door".E
- Stewart Baker, "Data Access Shouldn't Be Up to Companies Alone".
- Ronald T. Hosko, "Don't Create Virtual Sanctuaries for Criminals".
- Jennifer Rubin, "Silicon Valley Enables Terrorists and Criminals".
- Andrew Ross Sorkin, "For Apple, a Search for a Moral High Ground in a Heated Debate".
- Ross Schulman, "The Government's iPhone Demands Undermine Security for All of Us".
- Bruce Schneier, "A 'Key' for Encryption, Even for Good Reasons, Weakens Security".
- The Economist, "When Back Doors Backfire".
- David Auerbach, "There Is No Good Argument for Encryption Backdoors".

Questions

1. What seem to be the strongest arguments that support and justify this debate's motion?
2. What seem to be the strongest arguments that critique and reject this debate's motion?