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WikiLeaks blows whistle on surveillance industry by Ritika Sharma

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Your smartphone could be spying on you! WikiLeaks has released a database of surveillance companies that hijack users' smartphones and computers to monitor their activities.

The whistle-blowing website posted 287 documents on Thursday, revealing details of more than 150 companies that are making billions by selling surveillance tools to intelligence agencies. WikiLeaks has hinted that it will release more documents over time. The documents which is called 'Spy Files' include brochures from big companies such as Cisco Systems, HP, Northop Grumman, Alcatel-Lucent, Nokia-Siemens, Polaris Wireless and Harris marketing products for surveillance.

â€œIntelligence agencies, military forces and police authorities are able to silently, and on mass, and secretly intercept calls and take over computers without the help or knowledge of the telecommunication providers. Usersâ€™ physical location can be tracked if they are carrying a mobile phone, even if it is only on stand by,â€• wrote WikiLeaks in its reports.

Surveillance industry exposed:- The documents, called 'Spy Files,' include brochures from big companies such as Cisco Systems, HP, Northop Grumman, Alcatel-Lucent, Nokia-Siemens, Polaris Wireless and Harris marketing products for surveillance.

The documents date from 2006 to 2011. Users can search for all the surveillance contractors on a world map. Julian Assange said that all the iPhone and Blackberry users are being tracked by surveillance companies.

â€œWho here has an iPhone, who has a BlackBerry, who uses Gmail? Well youâ€™re all screwed. The reality is that intelligence operations are selling, right now, mass surveillance systems for all those products,â€• stated WikiLeaks' Founder Julian Assange.

â€œIntelligence companies such as VASTech secretly sell equipment to permanently record the phone calls of entire nations,â€• WikiLeaks claimed.

Further, it added that companies such as SS8 in the United States, Hacking Team in Italy and Vupen in France manufacture virus that take control of the device and record every movement, â€œeven the sights and sounds of the room it is in.â€•

According to WikiLeaks' Founder Julian Assange, all the iPhone and Blackberry users are being tracked by surveillance companies.

Speaking at a panel discussion in London on Thursday, Assange said, â€œWho here has an iPhone, who has a BlackBerry, who uses Gmail? Well youâ€™re all screwed. The reality is that intelligence operations are selling, right now, mass surveillance systems for all those products.â€•

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Whistle-blowing again:- 'Spy Files' marks the first release since the website was forced to halt operations after its funding was blocked last year.

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the iPhone and Blackberry users are being tracked by surveillance companies.

For the project, WikiLeaks teamed up with Bugged Planet, The Bureau of Investigative Journalism, Privacy International, The Washington Post, The Hindu, Lâ€™Espresso and OWNI.

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