Is Your Phone Listening?

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How is Your Phone Listening?

Your phone is able to listen to you in a variety of ways, they major way being through virtual assistant apps. These apps include:

- Siri
- Google Assistant
- Alexa
- Cortana

When users are asked to sign terms and conditions, they often do not realize what they are signing off on. These terms and conditions allow android and IOS devices to collect data through the microphone and send it to other servers.

Phones can also use this microphone access with or without your phone being on. Many smartphones also have motion sensors that can pick up frequencies. (Kroger).

Using the information that is recorded, companies filter out what is unnecessary to find relative information about the person’s likes and dislikes to target them for specific ads.

Is Our Information Safe?

We may think that our information is safe, but according to Google’s terms and conditions, they are allowed to do a lot with our data already. It cannot be ensured that our data with stay safe in the hands of these companies.

Why is Your Phone Listening?

Many companies use different features of the phone that are not necessary for what they need. But why do they do this?

- Helps carry out verbal demands given by user
- Capable of internet tracking
- Collects and keeps the data we convey

Every time we speak into our phones, it is not only carrying out the tasks we ask of it, but it is also collecting what we say and storing the data for advertising and marketing purposes.

Is This Ethical?

This is unethical. Most people are unaware that companies are using their information and that their phones are recording their conversations.

Is This Legal?

Yes and no, depending on how the companies are gaining their information.

Yes:

When we accept the terms and conditions for any app, website, or just our phone in general, it is rare for people to actually read the text in its entirety. In accepting these terms, we are allowing our phones to listen to us in a sense.

No:

It becomes illegal when the user does not consent for the companies to do so and use spyware or malware. These will interm infect the smartphones in an illegal manner.

References


