

SCIENCE MUSEUM SPY TRAIL – Find your own comfort zone

Spying technology isn't just used by Government agents. The wide availability of advanced surveillance and monitoring equipment enables a wide range of people and organisations to watch and collect information about all of us.

How does that make you feel?

- Find a map of the Museum (you can pick up a printed map at any information desk, or use our information terminals throughout the building).
- Use the map, and the signs around the Museum, to help you find your way to each comfort test. Start from the main information desk on the ground floor.

1: COLLECTING YOUR INFORMATION

Location: GROUND FLOOR – make your way past the café, through the Space area, past the lifts and into a large area called MAKING THE MODERN WORLD.

Directions: Walk along the left side of the room until you see a case called THE AGE OF THE MASS 1914-1939. It is near the large Racing Motor Boat. The first machine in this case is a CARD SORTER made by the British Tabulating Machine Co. It was used to process information about the UK population, gathered in the 1911 Census.

Comfort test: In 2011, the UK Census may ask you to provide details of your financial income for the first time. How does that make you feel?

A: I don't mind – the information is confidential and cannot be linked with me anyway.

B: I resent the idea of having to tell the Government how much I earn.

C: I'm worried the information could affect my tax bill or the benefits I receive.

2: WATCHING YOU

Location: GROUND FLOOR – stay in MAKING THE MODERN WORLD.

Directions: Carry on walking down the left side of the room. In the last case, in the corner, is a large SURVEILLANCE CAMERA.

Comfort test: Read the label in the case about SURVEILLANCE and the camera itself. Since 1999 the use of CCTV cameras has increased even more. In 2004 the *Independent* newspaper claimed there were 4 million cameras in the UK.

How does being watched make you feel?

A: I don't like being watched – there's nowhere in the UK that is truly private any more.

B: I worry about who is watching the film, and what they might say about me.

C: I feel safe because someone will see criminals or terrorists if they are nearby.

3: IDENTIFYING YOU

Location: FIRST FLOOR – turn left to leave the area, walking towards the glowing blue lights. Walk past the orange wall and use the lift or stairs on the left to reach WHO AM I? on the 1st floor.

Directions: Find the silver pods on the right hand side of the room. The second one along, called BIOMETRICS, includes a fingerprint scanner. You can also see how many other different physical characteristics can be used to identify you.

Comfort test: In some UK airports, Project IRIS (Iris Recognition Immigration System) allows registered travellers to pass through airport immigration without showing their passports. What do you think about this?

A: I'm worried the system might go wrong and I'll be identified as a terrorist.

B: It sounds like a great way to speed up lengthy queues. I want to enrol.

C: Its just another way for the Government to collect my personal data.

4: KNOWING WHERE YOU ARE

Location: THIRD FLOOR – retrace your steps to the stairs or lift, go to the 3rd floor and find the room called IN THE FUTURE.

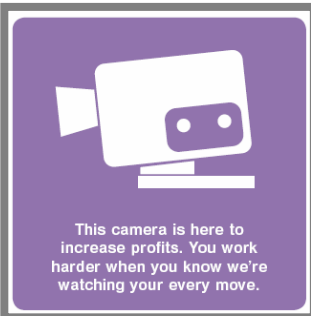
Directions: Go to one of the large round tables and play the game about TRACKING CHILDREN. How did you vote? Did other people vote differently?

Comfort test: Your mobile phone signal can be tracked to within 100m. Soon, using GPS technology, it could be even more accurate. How would you feel if your parents or partner wanted to track the location of your mobile phone?

A: If they just wanted to check that I was safe, I wouldn't mind.

B: I'd be angry – it shows that they don't trust me.

C: I think knowing where I am might make them more worried about me.



5: READING YOUR MIND

Location: THIRD FLOOR – go back towards the lift and walk through the doorway into the Flight Gallery. Walk through this area, past the Simulators until you get to an open area. Go into the room on the left called HEALTH MATTERS.

Directions: Follow the walkway until you see three giant yellow metal rings on your left. These are the coils from a MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGE (MRI) scanner that takes pictures inside your body or brain.

Comfort test: New brain scans can show which part of your brain is active. This means scientists might be able to check whether you've seen something before, if you're telling a lie, or even what you might be intending to do. How would you feel if the police could use scans like this?

A: What if the system went wrong and I was wrongly accused of something?

B: I wouldn't mind – I've got nothing to hide so it wouldn't be a problem.

C: The mind is the only personal place we have left – I don't want anyone to look inside it.

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WHAT'S YOUR COMFORT ZONE?

Add up your comfort score here:

1. (Answer A=1 point, B=3, C=2)
2. (A=3, B=2, C=1)
3. (A=2, B=1, C=3)
4. (A=1, B=3, C=2)
5. (A=2, B=1, C=3)

Total score:

0-5: you are a very open person and are happy to trust other people with information about you.

5-10: you worry about what could happen to some of your data and are concerned how people might use it.

10-15: you are very concerned about protecting your own privacy and do not trust organisations with your personal data.

