

Do You Think Your Phones Are Tapped Or Your Emails Are Being Intercepted?

By Ed Opperman

With all of the technology available today, it's very possible that your phones may be tapped or that someone is intercepting and reading your private emails. A quick Internet search will produce literally thousands of online spy stores that sell all different kinds of eavesdropping equipment.

In business, your cutthroat competitors may want to gain an advantage over you, and may be willing to break the law to get it. Likewise, if you're involved in a divorce or custody litigation, your ex may have left behind some spying equipment to monitor your computer or telephone communications.

Telephone wiretapping isn't like you see in the movies or on TV. You're not likely to hear strange clicks or noises on your phone to indicate a wiretap. Also, a surveillance van needn't be parked nearby, with men listening in on headphones. They're far more likely to use something along the lines of an infinity transmitter or "harmonica tap," as it was called in the old days.



This is a piece of equipment either built in or added onto your home phone. It works like this. Once the equipment is installed on your phone, the spy will call your home phone and pause before dialing the last number. At that point, they'll play a tone over the phone line, and then dial the last number. The phone won't ring in the house, but the telephone handset is transformed into a listening device that will then pick up all the conversations spoken in the room.

This type of phone tapping device can be very difficult to locate in the average bug sweep of a telephone system. Often, the only way this kind of room bug can be discovered is with a telephone trap line, which can detect this kind of invasion of privacy by tracking every incoming call, whether the phone rings or not. In fact, it will send you an email alert with the incoming caller's phone number. Even if that caller is using Caller ID block.

This can also be the case with an invasion of your email privacy. If someone has somehow stolen your email password and now has access to your emails, it can be very difficult to discover this. Even a forensic examination of your computer's hard drive may be unable to detect an unauthorized access to your email account; and email service providers are seldom interested in listening to your complaints or suspicions.

However, it's possible to discover this kind of intrusion with an email tracing investigation, whereby a private investigator monitors your email account and documents any unauthorized access. Often, if enough identifying information about the intruder is recovered, it can provide evidence sufficient for an arrest and successful prosecution.

As you can see, invasion of your privacy through a telephone wiretap, room bug, or email hacking can be possible, and even very simple for an amateur to attempt. However, a counter-surveillance expert has many tools to catch spies and even document their crimes. **N**

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