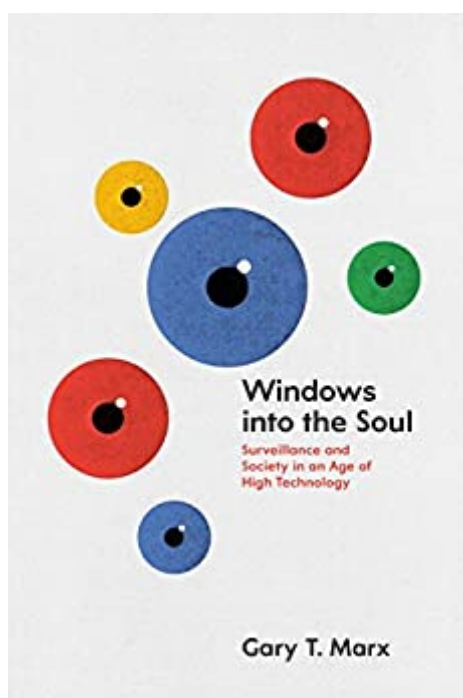The book was found

Windows Into The Soul: Surveillance And Society In An Age Of High Technology

Synopsis

We live in an age saturated with surveillance. Our personal and public lives are increasingly on display for governments, merchants, employers, hackersâ "and the merely curiousâ "to see. In Windows into the Soul, Gary T. Marx, a central figure in the rapidly expanding field of surveillance studies, argues that surveillance itself is neither good nor bad, but that context and comportment make it so.In this landmark book, Marx sums up a lifetime of work on issues of surveillance and social control by disentangling and parsing the empirical richness of watching and being watched. Using fictional narratives as well as the findings of social science, Marx draws on decades of studies of covert policing, computer profiling, location and work monitoring, drug testing, caller identification, and much more, Marx gives us a conceptual language to understand the new realities and his work clearly emphasizes the paradoxes, trade-offs, and confusion enveloping the field. Windows into the Soul shows how surveillance can penetrate our social and personal lives in profound, and sometimes harrowing, ways. Ultimately, Marx argues, recognizing complexity and asking the right questions is essential to bringing light and accountability to the darker, more iniquitous corners of our emerging surveillance society.For more information, please see www.garymarx.net.

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Customer Reviews

Professor Marx's magisterial study of the role of surveillance in society is not just an epic contribution to the sociological literature but a useful tutorial for criminal justice practitioners. Those of us with careers in criminal justice have watched the creeping role that advances in surveillance technology have played , in "looking in" on suspects and, later, tracking offenders under correctional supervision. Marx's waterfront-style coverage of the frequently unnoticed ethical and professional dilemmas embedded in the growing use of surveillance provides a useful antidote to the reflexive use of ever more intrusive devices. Reading "Windows" will inform and guide all cj officials who want to exploit technology's help while keeping in mind its real potential to be a double-edged sword.Ron Corbett (former probation official)U Mass Lowell

Gary T. Marx's latest book "Windows into the Soul" is a treasure, -- a joyful, entertaining sociological work reflecting a lifetime of study. It brings wisdom, experience, enthusiasm and humor to complex issues affecting everyone. The book is useful and fun to read, containing provocative chapters such as those on work monitoring ("The Omniscient Organization") and national security/law enforcement ("Rocky Bottoms"). Furthermore, it makes great use of images and music to illustrate how we experience surveillance through popular culture. This is a book for the general reader as well as the specialist.Minas Samatas, author of "Surveillance in Greece"

Gary Marx has written an excellent book on privacy that is of value to a number of audiences. Privacy scholars and historians will value the exhaustive research that forms the foundation of this work. As a former librarian and current privacy advocate, IÃ¢Â Â™m especially appreciative of the careful and comprehensive citations and notes that accompany the text. But while a scholarly look at privacy might prove daunting to many readers, Marx intersperses his analysis with light-hearted scenarios that cleverly illuminate the topics he explores. He also inserts hilarious yet revealing cartoons to illustrate his key points. Privacy is a multi-faceted issue; and Marx has taken a multi-faceted approach to exploring privacy. Academic and larger public libraries will especially want to add MarxÃ¢Â Â™s book to their collections. And any library that has materials on surveillance will want to add this book as well. Ã¢Â Â" Beth Givens (privacy advocate, San Diego)

Marx's book is a brilliant summary of a vast literature and a clear and much needed conceptual clarification in the still emerging field of surveillance studies. His sage writing is very lucid, entertaining and informative. It's a great singular read or an excellent companion to other well received and relevant surveillance studies including Joseph Turow's The Aisles Have Eyes.

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