

Google-NSA Nexus: New Chromium Browser Installs Eavesdropping Tool on Your PC

By [21st Century Wire](#)

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Google is one giant data and intelligence giant data and intelligence gathering operation. This latest browser revelation (see full story below) only confirms what we already suspected.

As a private tech start-up, Google was partly [seed-funded by both the NSA and CIA](#), and has since been completely co-opted by US intelligence to retain what technocrats and spy chiefs in Washington DC refer to as 'information superiority.'

[Salon](#) reported on just one of the Google-NSA covert joint ventures, "Turbine and Turmoil":

It's not clear what the NSA and Google built after the China hack. But a spokeswoman at the agency gave hints at the time the agreement was written. "As a general matter, as part of its information-assurance mission, NSA works with a broad range of commercial partners and research associates to ensure the availability of secure tailored solutions for Department of Defense and national security systems customers," she said.

According to officials who were privy to the details of Google's arrangements with the NSA, the company agreed to provide information about traffic on its networks in exchange for intelligence from the NSA about what it knew of foreign hackers. It was a quid pro quo, information for information.

"For Turbine and Turmoil to work, the NSA needs information, particularly about the data flowing over a network. With its millions of customers around the world, Google is effectively a directory of people using the Internet. It has their e-mail addresses. It knows where they're physically located when they log in. It knows what they search for on the web. The government could command the company to turn over that information, and it does as part of the NSA's Prism program, which Google had been participating in for a year by the time it signed the cooperative agreement with the NSA. But that tool is used for investigating people whom the government suspects of terrorism or espionage."

According to [RT.com](#) in an article entitled: Not OK, Google! Covert installations of 'eavesdropping tool' raise alarm,



Open source developers and privacy campaigners are raising concerns over the automatic installation of a shady "eavesdropping tool" designed to enable 'OK Google' functionality but potentially capable of snooping on any

conversation near the computer.

When one installs an open source Chromium browser, as it turns out, it “downloads something” followed by a status report that says “Microphone: Yes” and “Audio Capture Allowed: Yes,” according to an article by Rick Falkvinge, Swedish Pirate Party founder, [published](#) on the website Privacy Online News.

While the Chromium, the open source basis for Google’s browser, at least shows the code and allows user to notice it and turn it off, the same installation is included by default in the most popular browser Chrome, used by over 300 million people.

The code was designed to enable the new “OK, Google” hot word detection, which lets the computer do things like search or create reminders in response to human voice. Yet, some users are worried that the service could be activated without their permission, eventually sending recorded data to Google.

The worried users describe the Chrome Hotword Shared Module as an audio-snooping “black box”, with only the corporation that provided it fully aware of what the injected pre-compiled code is capable of.

“Without consent, Google’s code had downloaded a black box of code that – according to itself – had turned on the microphone and was actively listening to your room,” wrote Falkvinge.

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