

# Homeland Security's Covert Surveillance of Facebook and Twitter

Electronic Privacy Information (EPIC) files lawsuit against DHS

By [EPIC](#)

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EPIC has filed a Freedom of information Act [lawsuit](#) against the Department of Homeland Security to force disclosure of the details of the agency's social network monitoring program. In news reports and a [Federal Register notice](#), the DHS has stated that it will routinely monitor the public postings of users on Twitter and Facebook. The agency plans to create fictitious user accounts and scan posts of users for key terms. User data will be stored for five years and shared with other government agencies. The legal authority for the DHS program remains unclear. EPIC filed the lawsuit after the DHS failed to reply to an April 2011 FOIA [request](#). For more information, see [EPIC: Social Networking Privacy](#).

*EPIC is a public interest research center in Washington, D.C. It was established in 1994 to focus public attention on emerging civil liberties issues and to protect privacy, the First Amendment, and constitutional values.*

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