

# **De-clawing Carnivore**

**CS588: Cryptology**  
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## **1 Introduction**

"They that give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." -- Benjamin Franklin, 1759.

The heated debate over Carnivore and online surveillance is reaching a fervid pitch after the September 11<sup>th</sup> events. Civil liberty groups claim that Carnivore's power is too far-reaching and encroaches on basic constitutional freedoms, while law enforcement agencies insist on needing more power to combat terrorism and crime. This report seeks to explain the debate over Carnivore and offer solutions for those wishing to elude the system as well as those who wish to make Carnivore a more viable option. The next sections detail Carnivore's technical implementation along with the legal context that surrounding it. Our report also offers solutions in which Internet users can evade Carnivore or combat its potential abuse by FBI agents. It is our hope that this information will be valuable to both sides of the debate as they struggle to find a balance between freedom and security.