ODNI Review Group Comments
John C.

Just a few things already in the public knowledge that form a basis of my opinion below:

There are already reports of routine use of data mining and then falsifying the criminal (drug) cases cover it up.

The director of National Intelligence lied to congress on the subject and has paid little if any consequences.

Dangerous laws like the Patriot Act which were justified by the fear of terrorism have often been used in cases that have nothing to do with terrorism.

It is clear that our government cannot be trusted with such information and power. It has already violated the trust of it's citizens in multiple ways, with no tangible signs of remorse. More importantly, the checks and balances or oversight with congress has proven inadequate to the task.

I get that these capabilities have the potential to do some good, but the damage and very real risks are too great. The best sort of compromise this novice can come up with is as follows: Data COLLECTION must be targeted, not just the analysis of mass collected data. Additionally it cannot be so secret as it is today. NSLs appear to been abused, overused and leave few options for their victims. They may need to be disbanded entirely and replaced with something with more checks and balances built in.