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### Article Review #2: **The Overlooked Closeness of the Enemy**

**Relation to the Social Sciences**

- Describe how the topic relates to the principles of the social sciences

- Describe how concepts from the PowerPoint presentations relate to the article

The research literature, Privacy threats in intimate relationships, by Karen Levy and Bruce Schneier exploits the overlooked threats to privacy that occur within intimate settings. These intimate settings are not just romantic partnerships but also close friendships, caregiving relationships, and family ties and connections. This article demonstrates how trust and social bonds can be manipulated, showing that even close relationships can have complex dynamics where privacy concerns emerge due to the imbalance of trust and power. It also shows that intimate privacy threats often stem from one partner's access to the other's personal information, clearly explaining how power and authority can shift and be misused within close relationships. Most importantly, social science also emphasizes the study how societal structures and personal relationships impact vulnerable groups. The article explains this through highlighting the privacy invasions that occur through society's most vulnerable members: the elderly[1] and children[2]. (Levy & Schneier, 2020) The outsider threat; cybercriminal, has to complete an extra step of discovering private data and knowledge, unlike in intimate relationships, knowledge is most often shared and known, making it easier for privacy to be compromised directly without the need for technical intrusion or hacking.

**Research Questions and Goals**

- Describe the study's research questions or hypotheses

Levy & Schneier aimed to characterize intimate privacy threats and provide considerations for protecting privacy in intimate relationships. The authors have two goals which are to "describe intimate threats as a *class* of privacy problems, drawing out the features that characterize the category," (Levy & Schneier, 2020) and, "articulate a set of design considerations that is cognizant of intimate threats." (Levy & Schneier, 2020) Since there has been little attention paid to these intimate threats, they aim to not only categorize these threats through common characteristics, but also formulate a conceptual toolkit for researchers, designers, and policymakers to help identify and contain this phenomenon.

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[1] Levy & Schneier explain the invasion of privacy and manipulation elderly parents in care homes, senior living centers, and hospice centers through surveillance and monitoring devices. The dangers of nursing home residents are exposed through both family and faculty driving decisions without proper consent.

[2] Levy & Schneier explain how parents may infringe on their children's privacy through 24/7 tracking and monitoring through cellphone applications, embedded software, and vehicle tracking devices.

**How the Research is Conducted**

- Describe the types of research methods used

- Describe how concepts from the PowerPoint presentations relate to the article

The study employs a qualitative research approach to explore privacy threats within intimate relationships. The researchers carry out a thorough examination of existing literature on privacy invasions by close individuals, such as romantic partners, family members, friends, and close connected acquaintances. Surveys were used and conducted to help support their research[3]. In the section, Monitoring in Intimate Relationships, the authors explained the various methods of monitoring within close personal relationships that lead to privacy invasion. It also underscores how privacy invasion in intimate relationships can lead to physical, emotional abuse and harm. This sections also highlights the complexity of privacy boundaries within these relationships, as some monitoring is seen as protective or necessary. Although, in contrast, others may see it as an infringement to one's privacy or controlling. Further emphasized is the need to establish boundaries and protections of privacy even in close and trusted relationships, that while access is motivated by trust, household management, or safety, it creates distinct

vulnerabilities and risks by enabling partners or family members to monitor each other with minimal technological barriers. This also brings into light the ethical considerations regarding privacy. In the literature, in the case of romantic relationships, "many partners collect data about one another routinely and harmlessly," (Levy & Schneier, 2020) explaining that this is a crucial aspect to courtship and fostering trust, building a stronger intimate bond. Yet, harmless as it may seem, some of these secretive and highly private information can lead to abusive circumstances. (Levy & Schneier, 2020) Hence, the researchers have generated a list of features that provide characteristics and indicators for harm.

**Effects**

- Describe how the topic relates to the challenges, concerns and contributions of marginalized groups

These challenges create more sophistication on women, and the LGBTQ community due to the socioeconomic disparities and power imbalances that can limit their ability to assert privacy boundaries or seek support. Power imbalances are clearly present in the parenting structure, elderly care and heterogenous relationships[4]. Power imbalances in relationships can lead to increased surveillance, coercion, or control by partners or family members, especially when there are financial dependencies or societal pressures.

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[3] Surveys conducted showed that 31% of participants admitted to snooping on someone else's phone without permission and another survey reported a majority of parents monitor their teenagers' browsing histories and social media profiles

[4] Levy & Schneier point out there are implicit structures present that prevent victims from privacy invasion, such as in the case of children and parents pertinent to statutory laws and parental rights.

Monitoring in some cases is necessary, note the authors[5]. However, imbalance and transparency must be addressed.

**Solutions and Recommendations**

- Describe the overall contributions of the studies to society

To help address these issues and concerns a suggested implication for policy and design has been offered by the authors. They acknowledge the intricate nature of privacy in intimate relationships, yet emphasize the need for systems that empower individuals to set and maintain boundaries even within close personal connections. The authors propose that designers and policymakers integrate and prioritize tools that give users control over their personal information in technology to allow transparency and consent in data access. Aforementioned, characteristics of features have been identified that may lead to compromise in privacy and lead to further harm. With these features identified, a better formulated approach can be developed to design systems that anticipate and mitigate potential privacy risks in intimate relationships. By proactively addressing these vulnerabilities that have been overlooked in intimate relationships, designers and policymakers can help create tools that support individual autonomy and reduce the likelihood of harmful privacy breaches within personal relationships.

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[5] The authors acknowledge that some monitoring inevitable, desirable and sometimes necessary, though in such cases there must be a balance in legitimate interests, safety and trust

# References

Levy, K., & Schneier, B. (2020). Privacy threats in intimate relationships. *Journal of Cybersecurity*, *6*(1), 1–13. https://doi.org/10.1093/cybsec/tyaa006