



Google: We don't spy on you

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Google executive chairman Eric Schmidt pushed back Friday against criticism that his company is spying on its users.

"I hear this perception that somehow we're not playing by the rules of modern society," he said at a conference at the Cato Institute. "I think it's wrong."

Critics of the search engine giant have claimed that its behavior is worse than the NSA's, because the information about people's lives is potentially more damning and comprehensive.

Instead, Schmidt maintained that Google's products are ideal for people who are concerned about the security of their information, due to its data protections.

"I today believe that if you have important information, the safest place to keep it is in Google," he said, "and I can assure the safest place to not keep it is anywhere else."

Many of those new encryption defenses have been employed over the course of the last year, since Edward Snowden revealed that the NSA was tapping into Internet companies' servers, causing public trust in the websites to nosedive.

In addition to those protections, Schmidt also claimed that his company has explored some technologies, such as facial recognition systems, that it ultimately decided not to roll out because of the concerns about people's privacy.

"Because we're so heavily criticized and so heavily scrutinized, if we were to make a mistake and release such a product it would be a real disaster to the company," he said.