

## Caspar Bowden

Caspar Bowden is an independent advocate for better Internet privacy technology and regulation. He is a specialist in data protection policy, privacy enhancing technology research, identity management and authentication. Until recently he was Chief Privacy Adviser for Microsoft, with particular focus on Europe and regions with horizontal privacy law.

From 1998-2002, he was the director of the Foundation for Information Policy Research ([www.fipr.org](http://www.fipr.org)) and was also an expert adviser to the UK Parliament for the passage of three bills concerning privacy, and was co-organizer of the influential Scrambling for Safety public conferences on UK encryption and surveillance policy. His previous career over two decades ranged from investment banking (proprietary trading risk-management for option arbitrage), to software engineering (graphics engines and cryptography), including work for Goldman Sachs, Microsoft Consulting Services, Acorn, Research Machines, and IBM.

### **Abstract of the lecture:**

The history of Internet surveillance policy in Europe is not well documented. Although many sources are available for the US which discuss the attempts to pass “key escrow” legislation in the 1990s, and the domestic significance of the “warrantless wiretapping” affair post-9/11, the story of parallel developments in Europe (and especially the UK) is known - outside government - only by a few privacy activists. This session will offer a tutorial and survey of interception law, mandatory communications data retention, access to decryption keys (and associated human rights antinomies), and problematic arrangements for “oversight” and “safeguards”. Examples will primarily be drawn from EU, UK and US law, and there will be a preliminary analysis of the legal and technical vulnerability of Cloud Computing to political mass-surveillance, over and above the well-known questions raised by the PATRIOT Act.

### **Suggested reading material (click to download):**

[\*Internet Privacy and Surveillance\*](#)

[\*Government Databases and Cloud Computing\*](#)