

CCC to tap 1000 phones a day

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A new phone tap system will let Corruption and Crime Commission agents intercept 1000 conversations a day and monitor 40 internet sessions simultaneously.

Documents obtained by WAtoday.com.au reveal the corruption watchdog plans to man the system with up to 150 agents, with as many as 100 logging in at any one time.

By June next year the system will be installed on Floor Three of CCC headquarters at 186 St Georges Terrace.

The Commission's Electronic Collection Unit will use it to intercept phone conversations, internet sessions, voice mail recordings, faxes, and transmitted videos.

The SMS, MMS, Twitter, Hotmail, GMail, Skype, Yahoo, Webchat, POP3, 3G/NextG and satellite accounts of targeted West Australians will also come under surveillance.

The CCC documents say the system will ideally enable agents to share information with other agencies, recognise specific voices, and translate interceptions arriving in foreign languages.

An average 1000 individual telephone calls a day will be intercepted, with the average call expected to last two minutes.

Once the calls are processed, the system will allow them to be accessed, queried, replayed and searched by up to 40 agents at a time, with a possible expansion of the system allowing 100 agents to monitor calls simultaneously.

It will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The CCC proposes to correlate information about targets with that of associates to help agents understand the relationships between the communicating parties.

The system will store information on peoples' names, addresses, genders, aliases, pseudonyms and nicknames.

To save agents' time, it will separate and group instances where targets access legitimate websites such as news websites or illegal ones like child pornography sites.

Most agents using the system will be located in St Georges Terrace, but a small number may log in from other Commission offices in Western Australia.

This story was found at: <http://www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/ccc-to-tap-1000-phones-a-day-20091020-h6ec.html>