

Daily Internet Tracking Survey
February 2001

Topline

3.7.01

Princeton Survey Research Associates
for the Pew Internet & American Life Project

Sample: $n = 2,096$ adults 18 and older

Interviewing dates: 2.1.01 – 3.1.01

Margin of error is plus or minus 2 percentage points for results based on the full sample

Margin of error is plus or minus 3 percentage points for results based on Internet users

CAR1 Now, on another subject...How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right? Just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

FEB 2001

%	5	Just about always
	26	Most of the time
	62	Only some of the time
	6	Don't know/Refused

[CAR4 ASKED BEFORE CAR2/CAR3]

CAR4 From what you've seen or read, do you think that existing laws protecting a person's telephone conversations are enough to protect their email and online activities as well, or do new laws need to be written just for the Internet?

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%	14	Existing laws enough
	62	New laws need to be written
	24	Don't know/Refused

CAR2.1 Do you approve or disapprove of allowing the FBI to intercept...(INSERT; ROTATE) to and from people suspected of criminal activities?

Based on Form 1 only [N = 1,013]

	<u>APPROVE</u>	<u>DISAPPROVE</u>	<u>DON'T KNOW/ REFUSED</u>
a Telephone Calls	57	34	9
b Letter and packages sent by mail	59	32	9
c Email over the Internet	57	31	12

CAR2.2 Do you approve or disapprove of allowing law enforcement agencies to intercept...(INSERT; ROTATE) to and from people suspected of criminal activities?

Based on Form 2 only [N = 1,083]

	APPROVE	DISAPPROVE	DON'T KNOW/ REFUSED
a Telephone Calls	54	38	7
b Letter and packages sent by mail	51	40	8
c Email over the Internet	52	36	12

CAR5 How much, if at all, have you heard about a computer system known as "Carnivore", which allows the FBI to intercept email messages sent or received by people suspected of criminal activities. Have you heard a lot, a little, or nothing at all about Carnivore?

<u>FEB 2001</u>		
%	2	A lot
	19	A little
	77	Nothing at all
	2	Don't know/Refused

CAR6 I'm going to read two statements that have been made about Carnivore. Please tell me which ONE comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right. (ROTATE 1-2)

Based on those who have heard of Carnivore [N = 465]

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%	45	Carnivore is good because it will allow the FBI a new way of tracking down criminals
	45	Carnivore is bad because it could be used to read emails to and from ordinary citizens
	4	(VOL) Both/Neither
	6	Don't know/Refused

CAR7 Overall, how concerned are you about criminals using the Internet to plan and carry out their crimes. Are you...

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%	43	Very concerned
	30	Somewhat concerned
	13	Not too concerned
	10	Not at all concerned
	4	Don't know/Refused

CAR8 How concerned are you about each of the following types of Internet crime? (First/Next)...
(INSERT; ROTATE) Are you very, somewhat, not too, or not at all concerned about this type of Internet crime?

	VERY CONCERNED	SOMEWHAT CONCERNED	NOT TOO CONCERNED	NOT AT ALL CONCERNED	DON'T KNOW/REFUSED
a Child pornography	80	12	2	4	2
b Computer hacking into government networks, web sites and files	52	26	7	10	6
c Computer hacking into business networks, web sites and files	46	30	9	9	6
d Credit card theft	69	18	4	6	3
e Wide-scale fraud	52	28	7	7	6
f Organized terrorism	61	21	7	7	4
g Destructive computer viruses	55	24	5	9	6

CAR9 Which ONE of these types of Internet crimes concerns you MOST?

FEB 2001	
%	50 Child pornography
	10 Credit card theft
	10 Organized terrorism
	5 Destructive computer viruses
	5 Computer hacking into government networks, web sites and files
	2 Wide-scale fraud
	1 Computer hacking into business networks, web sites and files
	13 Other/None of these
	4 Don't know/Refused

Methodology

This report is based on the findings of a daily tracking survey on Americans' use of the Internet. The results in this report are based on data from telephone interviews conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates between February 1, 2001 and March 1, 2001, among a sample of 2,096 adults, 18 and older. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus 2 percentage points. For results based Internet users, the margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3 percentage points. In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting telephone surveys may introduce some error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

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The sample for this survey is a random digit sample of telephone numbers selected from telephone exchanges in the continental United States. The random digit aspect of the sample is used to avoid "listing" bias and provides representation of both listed and unlisted numbers (including not-yet-listed numbers). The design of the sample achieves this representation by random generation of the last two digits of telephone numbers selected on the basis of their area code, telephone exchange, and bank number.

New sample was released daily and was kept in the field for at least five days. This ensures that complete call procedures were followed for the entire sample. Additionally, the sample was released in replicates to make sure that the telephone numbers called are distributed appropriately across regions of the country. At least 10 attempts were made to complete an interview at every household in the sample. The calls were staggered over times of day and days of the week to maximize the chances of making contact with a potential respondent. Interview refusals were recontacted at least once in order to try again to complete an interview. All interviews completed on any given day were considered to be the final sample for that day. The final response rate for this survey is 38%.

Non-response in telephone interviews produces some known biases in survey-derived estimates because participation tends to vary for different subgroups of the population, and these subgroups are likely to vary also on questions of substantive interest. In order to compensate for these known biases, the sample data are weighted in analysis. The demographic weighting parameters are derived from a special analysis of the most recently available Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (March 2000). This analysis produces population parameters for the demographic characteristics of adults age 18 or older, living in households that contain a telephone. These parameters are then compared with the sample characteristics to construct sample weights. The weights are derived using an iterative technique that simultaneously balances the distribution of all weighting parameters.