

# When your “friends” spy on you: The firm pitching Orwellian social media surveillance to militaries | Forbidden Stories

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Imagine opening Facebook to a new friend request. You click on the profile and notice mutual friends. The person shares interesting content related to your job or passion on their profile. You don't know them, but you accept the request.

A few days later, they may send you a message or request to join a closed group you administer. They may also request your WhatsApp number to share a link concerning a cause you're promoting online. You click the link out of curiosity.

Suddenly, without your knowledge, your device has become a virtual spy machine. Behind the highly-realistic fake account, called an avatar, is an intelligence or police agent who now has access to your personal information and can even activate the device's camera to spy on you in real time.

Source: [When your “friends” spy on you: The firm pitching Orwellian social media surveillance to militaries | Forbidden Stories](#)