

2015 阅读 Text2

P1 Just how much does the Constitution protect your digital data? The Supreme Court will now consider whether police can search the contents of a mobile phone without a warrant if the phone is on or around a person during an arrest.

P2 California has asked the justices to refrain from a sweeping ruling, particularly one that upsets the old assumption that authorities may search through the possessions of suspects at the time of their arrest. It is hard, the state argues, for judges to assess the implications of new and rapidly changing technologies.

P3 The court would be recklessly modest if it followed California's advice. Enough of the implications are discernable, even obvious, so that the justices can and should provide updated guidelines to police, lawyers and defendants.

P4 They should start by discarding California's lame argument that exploring the contents of a smartphone— a vast storehouse of digital information— is similar to, say, going through a suspect's purse. The court has ruled that police don't violate the Fourth Amendment when they go through the wallet or pocketbook of an arrestee without a warrant. But exploring one's smartphone is more like entering his or her home. A smartphone may contain an arrestee's reading history, financial history, medical history and comprehensive records of recent correspondence. The development of "cloud computing", meanwhile, has made that exploration so much the easier.

P5 Americans should take steps to protect their digital privacy. But keeping sensitive information on these devices is increasingly a requirement of normal life. Citizens still have a right to expect private documents to remain private and protected by the Constitution's prohibition on unreasonable searches.

P6 As so often is the case, stating that principle doesn't ease the challenge of line-drawing. In many cases, it would not be overly burdensome for authorities to obtain a warrant to search through phone contents. They could still invalidate Fourth Amendment protections when facing severe, urgent circumstances, and they could take reasonable measures to ensure that phone data are not erased or altered while waiting for a warrant. The court, though, may want to allow room for police to cite situations where they are entitled to more freedom.

P7 But the justices should not swallow California's argument whole. New, disruptive technology sometimes demands novel applications of the Constitution's protections. Orin Kerr, a law professor, compares the explosion and accessibility of digital information in the 21st century with the establishment of automobile use as a virtual necessity of life in the 20th:

The justices had to specify novel rules for the new personal domain of the passenger car then; they must sort out how the Fourth Amendment applies to digital information now.

Q1. The Supreme Court will work out whether, during an arrest, it is legitimate to____. 细节题

- [A] prevent suspects from deleting their phone contents
- [B] search for suspects' mobile phones without a warrant
- [C] check suspects' phone contents without being authorized
- [D] prohibit suspects from using their mobile phones

Q2. The author's attitude toward California's argument is one of____. 态度题

- [A] disapproval
- [B] indifference
- [C] tolerance
- [D] cautiousness

Q3. The author believes that exploring one's phone contents is comparable to____. 细节题

- [A] going through one's wallet
- [B] handling one's historical records
- [C] scanning one's correspondences
- [D] getting into one's residence

Q4. In paragraph 5 and 6, the author shows his concern that____. 细节题

- [A] principles are hard to be clearly expressed.
- [B] the court is giving police less room for action.
- [C] phones are used to store sensitive information.
- [D] citizens' privacy is not effectively protected.

Q5. Orin Kerr's comparison is quoted to indicate that _____. 例证题

- [A] the Constitution should be implemented flexibly.
- [B] principles of the Constitution should never be altered.
- [C] California's argument violates principles of the Constitution.
- [D] new technology requires reinterpretation of the Constitution.