

Every phone in DC and Silicon Valley Has Been Under Surveillance, U.S. officials say

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How StingRay cellphone surveillance devices work

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The Department of Homeland Security has detected what appeared to be the use of a controversial cellphone surveillance technology in D.C.

(Monica Akhtar/The Washington Post)

A federal study found signs that surveillance devices for intercepting cellphone calls and texts were operating near the White House and other sensitive locations in the Washington area last year.

A Department of Homeland Security program discovered evidence of the surveillance devices, called IMSI catchers, as part of federal testing last year, according to a [letter from DHS](#) to Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) on May 22. The letter didn't specify what entity operated the devices and left open the possibility that there could be alternative explanations for the suspicious cellular signals collected by the federal testing program last year.