MAGA Reacts to Potential National Citizen Domestic Spy Database

By Nick Mordowanec

Supporters of President <u>Donald Trump</u> expressed anger and disbelief online following reports that his administration had advanced plans to create a national citizen database with technology firm Palantir.

Newsweek reached out to Palantir for comment.

Why It Matters

The White House has contracted Palantir, a Colorado-based analytics company <u>co-founded by Trump</u> <u>supporter Peter Thiel</u>, to assist in <u>compiling a database of personal information</u> on American citizens, according to unnamed government officials and Palantir employees who spoke with *The New York Times*. The purported deal follows project talks Palantir had with the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Department of Education.

The reaction from Trump's supporters reflected growing unease within conservative circles, indicating a rare rupture between the president and key segments of his constituency. The controversy underscores nationwide anxieties around privacy, civil liberties, and the growing influence of technology firms over personal information management.

What To Know

The Palantir deal marks a significant development in government data collection, drawing sharp concern from privacy advocates and Trump's own core base, otherwise known as "MAGA." Detractors compared the centralized database effort to surveillance initiatives in authoritarian regimes.

Numerous pro-Trump voices expressed dismay and feelings of betrayal across social media platforms like X.

"People are so quick to suggest that I flipped on Trump...No, no, no...I didn't flip on Trump. TRUMP FLIPPED ON US. I'm just not willing to continue living in a LIE, and I will tell you the unfortunate TRUTH about it," The Patriot Voice wrote on X to his 158,000 followers.

President-elect Donald Trump shakes the hand of Peter Thiel during a meeting with technology executives at Trump Tower, December 14, 2016 in New York City. Drew Angerer/Getty Images The Hodgetwins, popular conservatives and Trump supporters, have more than 3.3 million followers on X. In response to *The New York Times* report, they wrote on May 30, "Hope this ain't true y'all." Read more Donald Trump

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- Donald Trump Pulls NASA Nominee Days Before Senate Vote

Another post that same day reads: "Don't know if this is true but I did not vote for this."

Nick Fuentes, a far-right Trump supporter described as an "America First" white nationalist, called the association between the Trump administration and Palantir "the ultimate betrayal of his own people."

"Feeding every 'MAGA extremist' into an AI database controlled by a CIA/Mossad cutout," Fuentes said on X, where he has roughly 561,000 followers. "Seriously, if Palantir isn't the deep state, then what is?"

In a <u>video</u> recorded by Fuentes, who also has a Rumble channel viewed over 31 million times, he said the following: "They are tracking everybody that criticized Israel, everybody that interacts with somebody that's criticizing Israel, and whether you're on a visa or not, whether you're a citizen or not, whether you're brown or not, Christian or Muslim, they're putting you in the Palantir database. They're putting you on the enemies list. If you don't see a problem with that..."

"I'm beginning to think it started when DJT walked down that escalator, before 2016," wrote an X user with the moniker "Redneck Common Sense."

X user Jack Maxey wondered: "Was MAGA a giant psyop?"

X user @D10Cat wrote: "Is Trump the same man that he was in 2016? Or did I just not see it back then?"

"The cope is unreal," wrote Ashton Nichols on X. "I voted for Trump but this is just unacceptable."

Palantir secured more than \$113 million in federal contracts since Trump took office, including a recent \$795 million agreement with the Department of Defense, according to *The New Republic*. Its data analytics platform, Foundry, has already been deployed at the <u>Department of Homeland Security</u> and Department of Health and Human Services, potentially enabling cross-agency information sharing.

"Shady, centralized dossiers on citizens are foundational for attacking civil rights and civil liberties but paper files have long been replaced by a mishmash of electronic forms, biometrics, and data bought off data brokers," Cody Venzke, senior policy counsel at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), told *Newsweek* on Monday. "AI platforms like those built by Palantir are the key to pulling together the many data points the government has on each of us—your political donations, governmental benefits, movements, and perhaps firearm records, could someday be a single click away for dozens of governmental agencies."

Other critics, including activist Jason Bassler, <u>compared the plan</u> to China's "Social Credit System," warning of the dangers of centralized personal dossiers.

"No, this Palantir database isn't like the others," Bassler wrote on X on June 1. "It will combine:

-Tax filings -Student debt -Social Security -Bank accounts -Medical claims -Immigration status

"No previous database system has ever centralized this much personal info across various federal agencies."

What People Are Saying

Taylor Rogers, White House spokesperson, said in a statement to Newsweek on

Monday: "President Trump signed an executive order to eliminate information silos and streamline data collection across all agencies to increase government efficiency and save hard-earned taxpayer dollars."

Former Republican Representative Justin Amash: "The surveillance state...the police state...the deep state.....are alive & well under Trump. He signed bills to extend & expand mass surveillance. Now he's building profiles' on millions of law-abiding Americans. It's an extraordinary threat to liberty."

Paul Graham, computer scientist, said: "Palantir is 'helping build the infrastructure of the police state."

What Happens Next

Palantir has yet to respond to the Times' report.