

## **Your "FEDERAL KEY SCORE" Is The Government Rating Of How Much You Mouth Off**

By Donna Lewis

Federal databases, like "XKEYSCORE" and others, rate you on how much of a trouble maker you are. It is like a credit score for activism. The higher your KEY SCORE, the more surveillance is placed on you. Google, Facebook and Twitter supply 75% of the data to the NSA, EDS and contract services (like Edward Snowden worked at) to create your secret FEDERAL KEY SCORE.

Your KEY SCORE equates into something similar to a one to ten rating. An average person is a #2. A journalist is a #7. Snowden and Assange have special #11 ratings on a system that essentially is only supposed to go up to 10 (ie: "Spinal Tap"). The numbers are not actually that simple but they transpose out as that mundane of a thing. The more you get out of the line of sheep and nine-to-five slave labor, the higher your number.

China, which steals quite a bit from the USA, has copied the FEDERAL KEY SCORE system.

STEPHEN JOHNSON describes the system: By 2020, China plans to assign each of its 1.4 billion citizens a "social credit score" that will determine what people are allowed to do, and where they rank in society.

It's part of a broad effort in China to build a so-called reputation system that will measure, in theory, the credibility of government

officials and businesses, in addition to citizens. The Chinese government says the system will boost “trust” nationwide and build a culture of “sincerity.”

A handful of private data companies are helping the government develop the system. One is a firm called Sesame Credit, which assigns citizens a fluctuating score between 350 and 950 points, based on factors like what people buy, whom they associate with, and what they post. For instance, sharing a post praising the Chinese government would be recorded as having “positive energy” by Sesame Credit, and would make one’s score go up.

Low scores will result in punishment, as a 2016 government report describes:

“If trust is broken in one place, restrictions are imposed everywhere, safeguard judicial authority, raise judicial credibility, and create an upward, charitable, sincere and mutually helpful social atmosphere.”

Some citizens have already suffered punishment, such as Chinese journalist Liu Hu, who discovered he was banned from flying because his name was on a list of “untrustworthy people”. In 2013, Liu was arrested for defamation after publishing posts that were highly critical of government officials, a crime for which he was ordered to apologize. The court found his apology insincere.

“I can’t buy property. My child can’t go to a private school,” he told CBS. “You feel you’re being controlled by the list all the time.”

Other potential punishments for low-score citizens could include

slower internet speeds, restricted access to businesses, and being prohibited from entering certain professions.

A massive network of surveillance cameras will also help to record and measure citizen behavior. It's estimated that China has 176 million surveillance cameras in operation now, with plans to more than double that by 2020. The stated goal of this surveillance infrastructure is to deter criminals, but so far there seems to be no crime too small to punish. For instance, Chinese officials in Fuzhou have been publishing the names of jaywalkers, and it's been reported that citizens might soon be punished for being seen smoking in non-smoking areas or driving poorly.

If it sounds like Orwellian doublespeak to hear the Chinese government say the plan will foster a "sincere" and "mutually helpful social atmosphere," you're not alone.

"It's Amazon's consumer tracking with an Orwellian political twist," wrote Johan Lagerkvist, a Chinese internet specialist at the Swedish Institute of International Affairs, adding that the program also records what books people read.

Rogier Creemers, a post-doctoral scholar who specializes in Chinese law and governance at the Van Vollenhoven Institute at Leiden University, likened the system to "Yelp reviews with the nanny state watching over your shoulder."

Perhaps the most popular comparison has been to the 'Nosedive' episode of Black Mirror, in which everyone in a future society has a social credit score that can be nudged up or down based on interactions with other people.

But criticism hasn't stopped millions of Chinese citizens from voluntarily signing up for the program before it becomes mandatory in 2020. That's partly because of China's widely unregulated market, where many signed contracts aren't kept, and where counterfeit and substandard products move freely. The Chinese government says these problems represent a "trust deficit" that could be fixed with a codified credibility system.

"Given the speed of the digital economy it's crucial that people can quickly verify each other's credit worthiness," Wang Shuqin, a professor at the Office of Philosophy and Social Science at Capital Normal University in China, who is helping the government develop the system, told Wired. "The behavior of the majority is determined by their world of thoughts. A person who believes in socialist core values is behaving more decently."

Of course, it's also possible that Chinese citizens are signing up for the program out of fear of reprisal if they don't. And then there's the incentives: A 2017 Wired cover story points out that high social credit scores are seen as a status symbol, and they earn people more prominent visibility on dating apps, as well as perks at businesses—gift cards, faster check-ins at hotels and airports, and no required deposits for rental cars.

In an interview with CBS, Ken Dewoskin, a senior advisor and eminence fellow to Deloitte Services LP for China research and insight, was asked how far the social credit system goes into people's daily mundane activities.

"I think that the government and the people running the plan

would like it to go as deeply as possible to determine how to allocate benefits and also how to impact and shape their behavior.”

One internet privacy expert described China’s plan as a dangerous intervention into human behavior.

“What China is doing here is selectively breeding its population to select against the trait of critical, independent thinking. This may not be the purpose, indeed I doubt it’s the primary purpose, but it’s nevertheless the effect of giving only obedient people the social ability to have children, not to mention successful children.”