No More Privacy: Digitalized Immigration

Jennifer Ramos
LAS 1420
hd1483@wayne.edu

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies

Introduction

➢ As of 2018, 10% of Department of Homeland Security's $44 billion budget is allocated towards immigration policy enforcement technology.
➢ Technology is incorporated in areas ranging from border security to ordinary surveillance (such as data gathering).
➢ Issues include inherent lack of privacy, greater cooperation between authorities.
➢ Latinx community is especially vulnerable as they make up over 70% of the U.S. undocumented population as of 2018.

Research Question

How does technology embedded in immigration policy enforcement impact the Latinx community?

Methods

➢ Peer Reviewed Journals & Scholarly Sources

➢ Popular News Articles

➢ Interview With an Immigration Law Firm Case Manager

Results & Analysis

➢ Secure Communities program increases cooperation between ICE & state/local police through centralizing biometric data
➢ More Latinx distrust of local & state police as this amplified data distribution reduces immigrant data privacy

Source: Los Angeles Times

Cloud Service Providers with 20 or more FedRAMP authorizations

Source: fedramp.marketplace.gov

Source: Mijente

➢ FedRamp authorizations: Number of federal authorizations (in 2018) to maintain government data (Amazon = 204)
➢ Silicon Valley companies collect, manage, and store private & public data used to build immigrant profiles
➢ Profiles are used to surveil, track, and eventually deport

➢ Social media presents online privacy & disclosure risks that may warrant further government investigation
➢ Visible lack of Latinx awareness on whether they do have federal privacy rights and how E-Verify can possibly infringe on these

Source: TruePublica
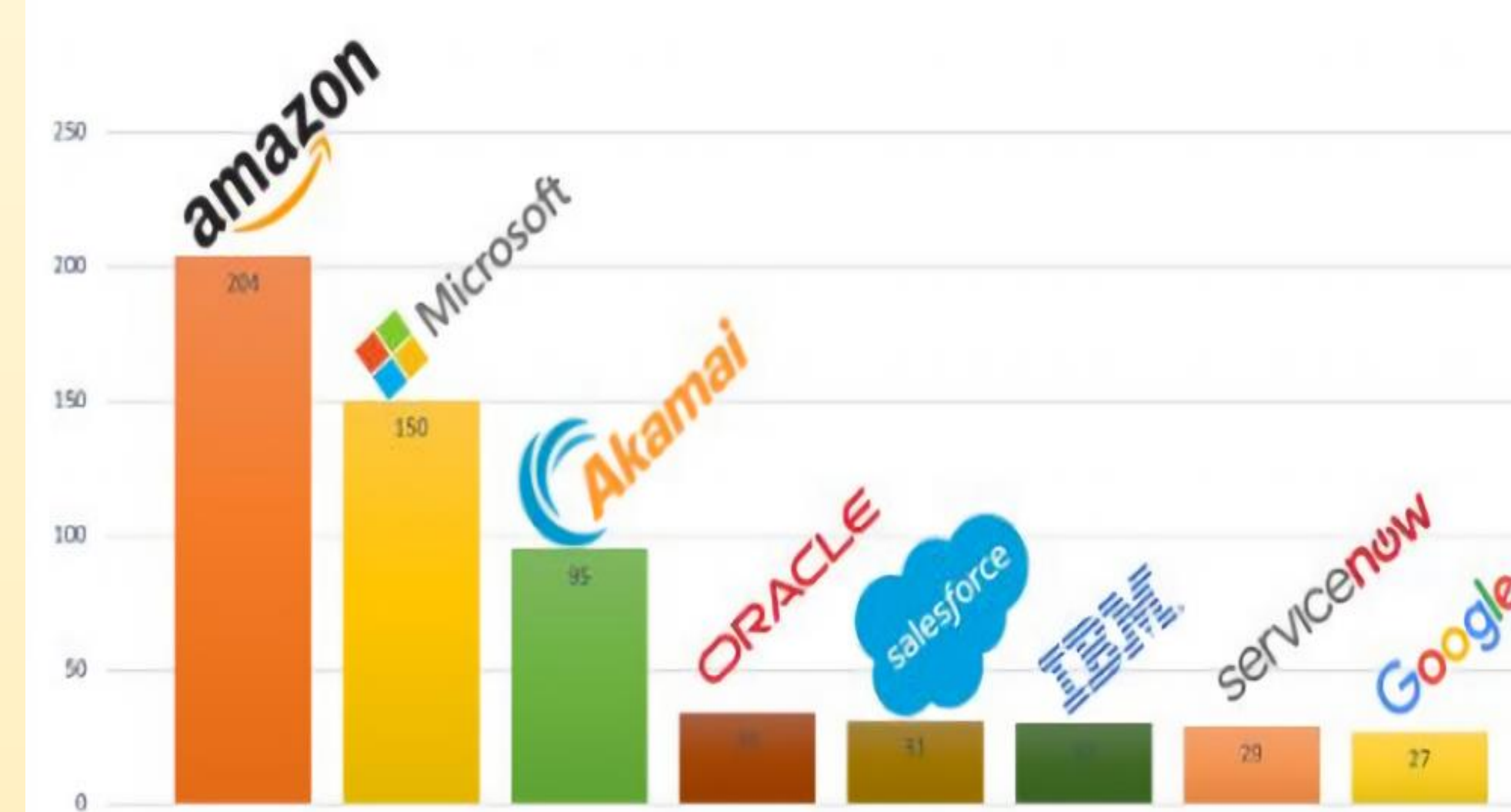
Results & Analysis

"They really don't think about [potential privacy violations], [immigrants] know it's part of the process and would rather not question it."

- Southeast MI Immigration Law Case Manager

Conclusion

➢ Greater awareness regarding privacy risks of this technology needs to be provided for Latinx immigrants.
➢ Secure Communities must be reevaluated to determine if it violates federalism & increases racial profiling.
➢ The government must increase transparency about its technology use within immigration processes. It must also increase clarity if existing privacy protections exist for immigrants. If not, laws on this topic must be considered and passed.

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