

Amazon: Stop Powering ICE's Deportation Machine

Amazon Web Services is a prime driver of Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) incarceration and deportation regime by providing ICE with a host of data storage services. Along with other major tech corporations, Amazon has built a revolving door with the US government to entrench Silicon Valley's role in expanding the acceleration of ICE's surveillance, data accumulation, arrest, imprisonment, and deportation of immigrants. ICE cannot wage its war against immigrants without the critical infrastructure support provided by tech corporations like Amazon.

How does Amazon fuel mass deportation?

The Amazon Cloud: DHS relies heavily on Amazon Web Services (AWS) as its primary cloud storage. In fact, Amazon has evolved from being a one-stop shop for consumers to the biggest broker of cloud storage space on the planet. By using AWS cloud storage services, DHS is able to store, sort, and share huge amounts of information used to target immigrants in its growing tech enforcement portfolio. AWS's cloud service allows ICE and DHS to:

- **Collect, store, and organize a massive repository of information on immigrants, their friends and family:** ICE purchases and collects unprecedented amounts of information on immigrants and the people connected with them. This includes biometric (facial, iris, etc.) and personally identifiable information collected by ICE and CBP officers, DMV data, license plate and other tracking data, utility bills, business and property data, healthcare provider information, cell phone records, location tracking social media accounts, and much more.
- **Scour Regional, Local, State, and Federal Databases to build profiles to surveil, track, and ultimately deport immigrants:** The Trump administration's prioritization of targeting immigrants en masse has accelerated ICE's acquisition of massive amounts of data and spurred on the enlistment of tech companies to develop solutions for data accumulation and analysis. Specifically, ICE has contracted Palantir, a tech company that has created systems to allow DHS agencies to interface with other databases, analyze all ingested data, identify connections, and produce intelligence reports. These systems also allow ICE to dangerously amplify the surveillance technology available to local law enforcement and prosecutors that is then used to target and profile people of color.
- **Undermine Sanctuary City policies through unprecedented data sharing among all levels of law enforcement.** AWS enables ICE and other DHS agencies to rapidly share information with local and state law enforcement, the FBI, DHS [fusion centers](#), as well as access data from bi-lateral info-sharing agreements with Mexico and other countries.

Amazon gets richer from ICE's deportation machine by:

- Further entrenching the "cloud industrial complex" — a lucrative public-private partnership between industry lobbyists, key federal legislators, tech executives, and former tech-executives-turned-government officials and vice versa. Currently, approximately 10% of the DHS's \$44B budget is dedicated to data management.
- Supporting the development of systems that allow the US government to target and punish en masse those which the Trump Administration has deemed "undesirable"—immigrants, Muslims, people of color, the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated, activists, and many others.

This is why we're targeting Amazon

It's time to hold Amazon accountable for its outsized share in building the deportation machine, and demand that they stop. It won't be easy—Amazon makes billions from these contracts. But the company also depends on consumers—including millions of Latinx people—and has to worry about protecting its brand.

We can force Amazon to stop helping DHS and ICE target immigrants, if enough of us call them out, stay engaged, and keep the pressure on.

For more info & the report *Who's Behind ICE: Tech Companies Fueling Deportation*, go to: mijente.net/notechforice/