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Vizio to Send Class Notices Through the TVs That Spied on Viewers

In a sign that we're actually all living in a science fiction novel, millions of smart TVs may soon be forced to admit to viewers that they have been spying on them. TV manufacturer Vizio is working on the feature to help satisfy a class action suit against it by disgruntled customers. Back in 2015, investigative journalism site ProPublica revealed that Vizio's smart TVs were just a little too smart for their own good. The TVs included a feature – switched on by default in 11 million devices – called 'Smart Interactivity', which tracked its customers' viewing habits. Vizio's Inscope data services operation collected data including snippets of the programs that the viewers watched, along with the date, time, channel, and whether they were viewed live, or as recordings. It also gathered data on over-the-top services such as Netflix, along with data from DVDs and even streaming devices. In short, if you watched it on a Vizio TV, Vizio knew about it.