With the rise of digital media and decentralized networks, many aspects of the panoptic permeate, particularly the phenomenon of being seen without being able to see, and the paranoia of not knowing when or if someone is watching. That is where the Panopticon building comes into play. The Panopticon is a huge institutional building designed by the English philosopher and social theorist, James Bentham. The whole concept of the design is to allow a single watchman to observe all inmates of the institution without them being able to tell whether they are being watched or not. Although the design of the building does not exactly have hardware or a code implemented but the building design consists of a circular structure with an “inspection house” at the center and the manager or staff of the institution was able to watch the inmates, who are stationed around the perimeter of the building.

This piece can be interactive towards an audience because it can spark a discussion on the deeper meaning of the Panopticon. The Panopticon is a huge symbol of surveillance and almost seems like “Big Brother” is always watching. Although it is physically impossible for only one watchman to observe all the cells at once, the fact that the inmates do not know at all when they are being watched means that the inmates have to be on their best behavior all the time. But what does this sort of surveillance do to the inmates locked in the cells? The Panopticon institutional building is a way to control the behavior of many of the inmates in the cells.
I have seen this picture of the Panopticon building plenty of times throughout my sociology classes where we have had many discussions about the deeper meaning of the Panopticon. I believe the Panopticon is a symbol for all of surveillance in the United States. We now live in a time where the people residing in the United States have no idea when the government might be watching and monitoring them. With the technology being used and discovered now, it is enough to believe that the government is able to invade the privacy of many people from their phones, computers, cell phones, etc.