SIDE BY SIDE: TIMELINE OF NSA'S COMMUNICATIONS COLLECTION AND CYBER ATTACKS

In all the reporting and subsequent hubbub about the National Security Administration's ongoing collection of communications, two things stood out as worthy of additional attention:

— Collection may have been focused on corporate metadata;

— Timing of NSA's access to communications/software/social media firms occurred alongside major cyber assault events, particularly the release of Stuxnet, Flame, and Duqu.

Let's compare timelines; keep in mind these are not complete.

Date	NSA/Business	Cyber Attacks
11-SEP-2007	Access to MSFT servers acquired	
15-NOV-2007		Stuxnet 0.5 discovered in wild
XX-DEC-2007		File name of Flame's main component observed
12-MAR-2008	Access to Yahoo servers acquired	

All 2008 (into 2009)		Adobe applications suffer from 6+ challenges throughout the year, including attacks on Tibetan Government in Exile via Adobe products.
11-JAN-2009		Stuxnet 0.5 "ends" calls home
14-JAN-2009	Access to Google servers acquired	
Mid-2009		Operation Aurora attacks begin; dozens of large corporations confirming they were targets.
03-JUN-2009	Access to Facebook servers acquired	
22-JUN-2009		Date Stuxnet version 1.001 compiled
04-JUL-2009		Stuxnet 0.5 terminates infection process
07-DEC-2009	Access to PalTalk servers acquired	

XX-DEC-2009		Operation Aurora attacks continue through Dec 2009
12-JAN-2010		Google discloses existence of Operation Aurora, said attacks began in mid-December 2009
13-JAN-2010		Iranian physicist killed by motorcycle bomb
XX-FEB-2010		Flame operating in wild
10-MAR-2010		Date Stuxnet version 1.100 compiled
14-APR-2010		Date Stuxnet version 1.101 compiled
15-JUL-2010		Langner first heard about Stuxnet
19-SEP-2010		DHS, INL, US congressperson informed about threat posed by "Stuxnet-inspired malware"
24-SEP-2010	Access to YouTube servers acquired	
29-NOV-2010		Iranian scientist killed by car bomb

06-FEB-2011	Access to Skype servers acquired	
07-FEB-2011		AOL announces agreement to buy HuffingtonPost
31-MAR-2011	Access to AOL servers acquired	
01-SEP-2011		Duqu worm discovered
XX-MAY-2012		Flame identified
08-JUN-2012		Date on/about "suicide" command issued to Flame-infected machines
24-JUN-2012		Stuxnet versions 1.X terminate infection processes
XX-OCT-2012	Access to Apple servers acquired (date NA)	

Again, this is not everything that could be added about Stuxnet, Flame, and Duqu, nor is it everything related to the NSA's communications collection processes. Feel free to share in comments any observations or additional data points that might be of interest.

Please also note the two deaths in 2010; Stuxnet and its sibling applications were not the only efforts made to halt nuclear proliferation in Iran. These two events cast a different light on the surrounding cyber attacks.

Lastly, file this under "dog not barking":

Why aren't any large corporations making a substantive case to their customers that they are offended by the NSA's breach of their private communications through their communications providers?