Society has forever changed since the adoption of computers and mathematics. It first started with an idea from a guy that no one had ever heard of, and it seemed like he came out of nowhere. His name was Dr. Samson, and he developed the Crime Analytics Prediction System (CAPS). CAPS used past crime data along with machine learning to predict when and where people would commit crimes in order to try to stop them. A lot of us didn’t really feel like this was something we should pay attention to, and it eventually felt like all of his TV interviews and articles in the papers and everything fell by the wayside; like he and his ideas had just slowly faded from the limelight and no one really cared anymore.

We were all wrong, and we realized it just as suddenly as the things he had been talking about started to happen. The first event was in 2052, when there was apparently a group of people who were posing some threat to one of the major metropolitan areas. Without any sort of evidence collected saying that these people had been plotting something, Dr. Samson appeared on TV saying that his life’s work had finally predicted something major. He and the government had enacted CAPS, and done their best to keep it under wraps that they were working together, which explains why he pretty much faded from everyone’s thoughts.
He and the government had decided to look into the frequency of attacks, the scales at which they happened, the amount of people involved, and the ways they happen. CAPS analyzed the social network of all those involved and even people they were close to. It scanned all forms of communication among these people: phone calls, text messages, and online chats. It even collected as much in-person conversation as it could from the government’s network of microphones in major cities around the world. All this data was processed by machine learning and social network analysis algorithms of CAPS, which was all done on the government’s world-class supercomputer. They determined that there was one major city that was 95% certain to be the target of the next attack. They looked at the way groups had formed and the patterns for how the aggressors would spread out, and even how many people were likely to be involved from events that happened in the past. With this information provided to the FBI, they were able to find the suspects and evidence that they were planning this attack. Using all of this, they saved the lives of thousands of people, and stopped a potential attack before it had even started. So far, the world had only seen the benefits of CAPS.

That was ten years ago, and looking back at it, we all thought it was a good thing. Using Samson’s CAPS, we all felt so much safer. It worked so well that the threats essentially were eliminated, all throughout the world. The technology was so great, and so accurate, that it brought a sort of amazing peace to the entire world, and we didn’t see or hear of any further attacks or attempts after about six months of the deployment of CAPS.
This peace that had been achieved was the end goal in Samson’s mind, and he was extremely excited that it had been achieved. He decided that his work was done, and CAPS would be left alone to do its work protecting the world. However, what Samson didn't know was that the project lived on even after he left.

This realization came first when people started to see their neighbors being taken from their homes by the police forces of the world. We would see things on TV, where a woman stands at her front door with her children, watching her husband being taken away by the police on suspicion. It was reported by all major news stations that there were some major breakthroughs with CAPS. Due to enhanced algorithms and hardware innovation, CAPS was now able to run on much more affordable hardware. It could now be used to predict smaller crime by any city's police department. However, police departments were starting to abuse the power that this gave them.

Evidence became a thing of the past. While CAPS was originally created as a tool to point investigators in the right direction to collect evidence, it was now being used as evidence itself. People who had no criminal backgrounds, or previous intent to commit crimes were being arrested on the streets and in their own homes for nothing more than perhaps unknowingly being connected to the wrong social network. People started to get arrested without having committed crimes, or even plot them. The worst part about it was that all of these people were still technically innocent, since they hadn’t done anything wrong. But, with this technology being so new and having so much initial success with the potential attack in 2052, people trusted it. People stopped getting fair trials and the chance to prove their innocence,
because all of it was right there in front of them. CAPS predictions were now taken as fact. If CAPS said you were guilty, the government and police were not comfortable letting you roam the streets when they were assumed to be such a high threat.

Dr. Samson was furious that his invention had been evolved and used so irresponsibly. It was to the point where the data truly meant nothing. CAPS would convict somebody of a crime, and then later use that conviction as evidence that they may commit a crime again. Once it decides someone is guilty, they are marked for life. He could no longer stand idly by and watch his invention used for evil.

Samson began speaking out publicly against the use of CAPS for this purpose. He was very reasonable about it and did not even assign blame to anybody in specific. He simply wanted to remind everyone, especially those in charge of this new legal system, that CAPS is simply a guideline and prediction system, not evidence. However, one day, to his absolute shock, Samson hears a knock at his door. When he opens the door, he is quickly handcuffed and taken from his home. “DON’T YOU KNOW WHO I AM?”, he screamed as he was carried away.

Then came his day in court, which could hardly be considered a trial anymore. He was simply read his predicted offenses and the basis for those predictions. “One count of Treason and one count of Inciting Violence for speaking out against the legal system”. Then came his turn to speak his defense, which was essentially a formality at this point, as nobody had ever successfully defended themselves from CAPS, he made a short statement.
He addressed the court, "Your honor, CAPS is my own creation, I know better than anyone its limitations. It was never intended to convict people based on past data alone. What has this world come to that we judge someone based not on one’s actions, but their past circumstances and the people that they know? I plead with you to consider the events that have actually occurred and not what CAPS thinks may happen in the future."

The judge looked confused, as nobody had ever tried to plead against CAPS. Most had accepted it as a fixture of the legal system by now. He thought about the argument for a few moments. Finally, the judge replied, “I am sorry Dr. Samson, but the facts speak for themselves in this case. Therefore, I sentence you to life in prison.”

Samson looked utterly defeated, for he knew that this ruling not only spelled the end of his freedom, but the freedom of society as well.