CSCI 215 Social & Ethical Issues In Computing

Class 9 – Privacy
Notes

• Office Hours Update
• Question/Discussion questions reminder
• Homework 1 and 2 graded -> 3 to be graded shortly
  • Note about 0’s showing up for you
  • Future homework submissions to D2L will be on the class’s dropbox
  • Biggest errors: Formatting
  • Other things I owe you: website update with last week’s slides, making up recitations info, write up for hands on recitations, bonus homework.

• Recitations (Today/Thursday)
  • Discussion: Roberts 412
  • Hands on: Roberts 208 – This week: Github
    • No hands on this Wednesday
Review

• Who is this group?

• What do they do?

• What color “hat” is a hacker who hacks professionally to discover vulnerabilities in their company’s system?
Right to be Forgotten

• Ruling in 2014, European Union declared the “Right to be Forgotten”

• Recently (i.e. last 24 hours) – Google lost appeal in France
  • Originally only delisted European version of sites

• Anti – Right to be forgotten points
  • Anti – Free Speech
  • Potential Censorship and rewriting history

• Pro – Right to be forgotten points
  • Gives some degree of control of your personal information
Right to be Forgotten

• Roots in France, *le droit à l’oubli*—or the “right of oblivion”—a right that allows a convicted criminal who has served his time and been rehabilitated to object to the publication of the facts of his conviction and incarceration

• In the US it is legal to publish about somebody’s past crimes (in most states)
  • Son of Sam laws
  • Simon & Schuster v. Crime Victims Board: claim it is a violation of the first amendment (and New York agreed)
Discussion Point

There are potential good and bad outcomes of the Right to Be Forgotten.

What are some good?
What are some bad?

• How much privacy do you / should you have?
Some rights you already have

- **FERPA:**
  - *Family Education Rights Privacy Act*
  - Protects your student information, such as grade records. Once you are 18, your parents cannot have access to your records

- **HIPPA:**
  - *Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act*
  - Provides federal protections for individually identifiable health information
Some rights you already have

• **COPPA:**
  - *Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act*
  - Specifies what responsibilities the operator of a Web site legally holds with regards to children's privacy and safety online, including restrictions on the types and methods of marketing targeting those under 13
  - Specifies how and when parental consent is needed

• **VPPA:**
  - *Video Privacy Protection Act*
  - 1988 - passed in reaction to the disclosure of Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork's video rental records in a newspaper
  - Revisited 2011 because of Netflix

• [https://epic.org/epic/about.html](https://epic.org/epic/about.html)
Let’s not forget

4th Amendment

• the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

• In other words: the government cannot search your house / read your mail / listen to your phone calls, unless they have a warrant.
Privacy is good except maybe when it’s not

• Like previously mentioned, not great for crimes like identity theft / child pornography (there are times when maybe you SHOULD be held responsible)

• Potentially holds back progress/innovation
  • HIPPA versus Open Sourcing medical records
  • https://www.ted.com/talks/john_wilbanks_let_s_pool_our_medical_data
What is 4Chan?

- 4chan is a simple image-based bulletin board where anyone can post comments and share images anonymously
https://www.ted.com/talks/christopher_m00t_poole_the_case_for_anonymity_online
Revisit

If you were looking to buy a couch, would you be more likely to use Craigslist or a Facebook group like “Bozeman’s online yard sale”? What’s the difference? Is there a difference?
Discussion Point

• It is often said “If you don’t have anything to hide, you don’t need to worry about privacy” – do you agree or disagree?

• Where is the balance between your right to privacy and “the greater good”?
Next Class

• By popular demand, Snowden and the NSA

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