

Public Affairs Institute

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About CDT

At the Center for Democracy & Technology, we believe in the power of the internet. Whether it's facilitating entrepreneurial endeavors, providing access to new markets and opportunities, or creating a platform for free speech, the internet empowers, emboldens, and equalizes people around the world.



Day 1 - Privacy and Harm

What do people mean when they talk about privacy?

Why do they care about it? Why should you?

Lots of different harms

Reporters deceitfully gain entry to a person's home and secretly photograph and record the person.
New X-ray devices can see through people's clothing, amounting to what some call a "virtual strip-search."

An individual's name and social security number are used to fraudulently access medical care.

A company markets a list of five million elderly incontinent women.

Despite promising not to sell its members' personal information to others, a company does so anyway.

Four main categories of privacy harm

Collection

Aggregation

Dissemination

Interference

Who is harmed?

Individual

Society

Groups?

Collection

Surveillance

Interrogation

Processing

Aggregation

Identification

Insecurity

Secondary Use

Exclusion

Dissemination

Breach of Confidentiality

Disclosure

Exposure

Increased Accessibility

Blackmail

Appropriation

Distortion

Invasion

Intrusion

Decisional Interference

Small Group

1. Can you list concrete examples of these harms? At least one of both the individual and the societal.
2. Can you list a countervailing benefit/overriding interest?
3. Should this be illegal? How illegal? Alternatively should it be encouraged in law?

Report outs

The role of new technology

1. How much of this is an ongoing problem we need to solve?
2. How might that shape policy making or society going forward?

Day 2 - Privacy and Compliance

Let's talk about data

What do companies have to worry about when it comes to privacy and their products?

How do they address these issues?

Internet of Things (IoT)

- According to Gartner research we'll see about 20 billion IoT devices by 2020 (both business and consumer) and about \$3 trillion in total related spending.
- It's not just consumer tech: Connected cities are also starting to leverage these technologies regularly: Philadelphia has saved over \$1 million by placing smart garbage cans around the city that alert sanitation workers when pick-up is necessary; New York City is converting public pay phones into free open WiFi hotspots.
- Do consumers want everything to be smart? Is there a meaningful use case for a smart toaster?

Fact Pattern - “Easy Home Companion”

You’re the Chief Privacy Officer of DataCo and your boss has come to you with an idea for a new line of products, the “Easy Home Companion”. The idea is that there are a lot of internet connected devices in the home but they don’t work together. DataCo wants to create a standardized platform to connect the home. The goal will be a platform that links a variety of elements including a home’s lights, thermostat, music and home entertainment, home security (including physical locks and video cameras), internet use, and appliances.

The platform will collect audio and video from inside and outside the home, a wide variety of data from TV viewing and internet surfing habits, power usage and lifestyle information (eating habits, sleep patterns etc). It will also interact with the physical systems in the home and be controlled by voice and/or a mobile app. Ideally it will offer connections between existing IoT devices (such as thermostats, TVs, refrigerators and vacuums) and also offer new devices that allow additional home automation (such as controls over lights and door locks).

What should you care about?

Data collection/privacy
Security
Manufacturing
Lifecycle
Third Parties
Consumer expectations
Right to tinker
Government access

Big picture

Cybersecurity

Rise of data

Artificial intelligence and machine learning

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