Take Back Your Data

Personal Information Security Practices

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What did they take?

- Internet searches you make
- Websites you visit
- Texts and IMs and emails
- Locations you visit (and when)
- Pictures you upload
- Videos you watch
- Your DNA (23andMe etc.)
- ...

...
Why do they do it?

• “Give you better results!”
• “Protect you from bad websites!”
• “Offer text prediction services!”
• “Tell you when to leave for work!”
• “Tag you in your friend’s photos!”
• “Recommend’ other shows!”
• “Show you where your ancestors lived!”
• ...

Why do they *really* do it?

- Show you ads
- Sell your data to other advertisers
- Manipulate you via ads
- Make incredible profits off *your* data
- Because they can!
Why should you care?

- You (probably) didn’t consent.
- Seriously, did you read those Terms and Conditions?
- What about the Privacy Policy?
- What about the policies of their affiliates?
- You’ve been duped!
Who does this?

- Google (the search engine)
- Chrome (from Google) / Comcast / AT&T
- Gmail (Google) / Facebook
- Android (Google) (and any app on it, so, Facebook)
- Facebook / Google Photos / Instagram (Facebook)
- YouTube (Google) / Netflix / LG etc.
- 23andMe / AncestryDNA
- ...

Take Back Your Data!

- The General Data Protection Regulations *kind of* helped
- At least, I received 47 privacy policy update emails
- I still didn’t read them all, but I tried to delete accounts
- The GDPR just proved that *you* have to protect yourself
- There are **three** easy steps you can do *today*
Switch to Firefox

• It’s free software
• It’s developed by a non-profit
• It’s easy, and just as nice as Chrome
• It comes with built-in tracker and ad blocking!
• You can also add:
  - uBlock Origin: https://github.com/gorhill/uBlock/ (not ublock.org)
  - HTTPS Everywhere: https://www.eff.org/https-everywhere
  - (or) DuckDuck Go Privacy Essentials: https://duckduckgo.com/app
  - (or) Privacy Badger: https://www.eff.org/privacybadger
Switch to Signal

• It’s open source
• It’s *always* end-to-end encrypted
• Works on Android, iOS, and desktops
• It has encrypted *group* chats with all the features
• I use it as my default texting app
• “Signal does not sell, rent or monetize your personal data or content in any way – ever.”
• [https://www.signal.org/](https://www.signal.org/)
Use DuckDuckGo

- Seriously, stop “Googling” everything
- Just “search” for it
- It’s honestly just as good as Google, but private
- It has awesome built-in shortcuts (bangs):
  - !gh for GitHub
  - !w for WikiPedia
  - !so for StackOverflow
  - !cpp for C++ Reference
  - And So Many More!
Honorable Mentions

- Linux
- Posteo and ProtonMail (email services)
- Bitwarden and KeePass (password managers)
- Nextcloud (Dropbox / Google Drive replacement)
- Brave Browser
- Wire (chat app)
- 1.1.1.1 (CloudFlare DNS)
- LineageOS (Android ROM)
- Mullvad (VPN that supports WireGuard)
- Delete Facebook!
- PrivacyTools.io