

PHI 227 - Assigned Notes

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We should have read 3 articles on privacy - why are privacy/data intertwined with AI/Machine Learning?

- Data is collected, generally is a breach of privacy (someone gets the data without your consent)
- AI uses this data to "learn" - it's trained on this data
- Terms of service for AI are very broad, so they can use your data for whatever they want
 - They're generally written in a way that's deliberately confusing
 - Anything you write into these systems is kept in order to create an even larger data set
 - Supposedly this process is anonymous, but who knows if that's true?
- There's generally two large entities that want your data:
 - The government
 - * (non-)state actors for their own personal interest (someone that's part of the government, but not the government itself)
 - The corporations
 - Typically this comes down to how interesting of a person we are - do we have something that they want? Money? Power? Influence?
- Storing data is exceptionally inexpensive, so there's no reason to delete it.

In the end, our data and the privacy that's a part of managing it is quite important. We should be aware of what we're giving up when we use these services.

When we give up our data, we almost directly give away our own personal autonomy.

- We usually have the autonomy to choose what we do with our relationships.
- We interact differently with different groups of people.
- Should have control of our own personal information and space
 - Giving out our data could breach this, and show *everyone* what we do at any point in time.

There are two main types of harms that can come from this:

- Individual harms - harms that affect the autonomy of the individual.
 - Discrimination - perhaps you don't have a job because of your personal data, something such as a disability that gets in your way.
 - Breach of personal information - someone gets your personal information and uses it against you.
 - * Identity Theft - company pretends to be you
 - * Eventual humiliation and/or social stigma
 - * Profiling (of any kind you can think of, not just racial)
- Collective harms - harms that affect the autonomy of a group of people.
 - Total Surveillance - everyone is being watched all the time
 - Chilling Effect on Free Speech - people are afraid to speak their mind
 - Misinformation - people are fed false information, however now it's so easy to personalize it

Corporations must take risks with our data because otherwise they don't make any money off of it. Is that really what we want to happen with our data? Doesn't seem like the greatest idea.

There's also some issues with the way that we store our data. Since it's so inexpensive, corporations don't have any reason to delete it. This means that this data may eventually overflow out onto the internet, simply by virtue of it existing. This is a huge issue, and it's not really being addressed.

Some have suggested a "data labor union" - corporations would have to negotiate a sum of money in order to access your data, then pay the union that amount. The union would then write a check out to you, the user, for the amount that was negotiated. This would give the user more control over their data, and would allow for some financial compensation for the use of their data.