

GDPR Data, Assignment 1

Below are the list of companies I requested data from

Apple : Visit <https://appleid.apple.com/account/manage>

Click on Privacy and and go to Manage your data

Click on Request a copy of your data

Whatsapp : Go to settings and press on request account info

Google : Visit <http://takeout.google.com/settings/takeout>

Select the category of data you want and click on Export.

Facebook : Press on profile Photo and Select Settings and Privacy

Select settings and scroll down to find **Download your information**

Instagram : Click on More in the bottom left corner

Click on Your activity and Click on Download your information

Chatgpt : Click on account name in bottom left corner

Select Settings and go to Data Controls

Click on Export Data

Twitter : Click or tap More in the main navigation menu to the left of your timeline.

Select Settings and privacy.

Choose Your account.

Select Download an archive of your data.

Confirm your password, then select the Request archive.

Quora : write to privacy@quora.com or visit quora.com/contact and select "I want a copy of my data."

Pinterest : Log into your Pinterest account

Click the down icon at the top-right corner of your screen to open your menu

Select **Settings**

Select **Privacy and data** from the left-side navigation

Under **Request your data**, click **Request data**

Linkedin : Click the Me icon at the top of your LinkedIn homepage.

Select Settings & Privacy from the dropdown.

Click the Data Privacy on the left rail.

Under the How LinkedIn uses your data section, click Get a copy of your data.

Select the data that you're looking for and Request archive.

Github : Click on the Profile

Go to Settings -> Account -> Export Account data.

Findings:

Based on the analysis of the data Below are the few things that was unexpected for me.

Whatsapp stores all the contacts in the phone: before this i was under the assumption that whatsapp only accesses the phone numbers present in the phone but each and every phone number present in the phone was also stored under my whatsapp account.

Whatsapp also has detailed info of all the devices i use. All the previous devices that i used to use but are no longer in use is still stored under the whatsapp account which i couldn't reason why.

Apple stores all the activity with the time in seconds : Apple stores all the activity of its user online and offline too much in detail with the time taken for the interaction to occur and also the location where it happened.

Most interesting was music data where it had the songs played by a user, artist and also the amount of time the song was played which i find unnecessary.

Instagram has huge amount of data: Instagram has large amount of data on each account holder. Each and every interaction is stored permanently. Even seemingly temporary stories which expire after 24 hours is stored permanently with instagram.

It also tracks the location precisely with latitude and longitude which is stored permanently.

It has also shared the list of advertisers that it has shared my information for business purposes and also specifies what data it has shared.

Facebook has list of topic of interest: Most of the points mentioned for instagram is also true for facebook. Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest all three have a list of topic i might be interested in that is inferred based on my behaviour. These websites claim to share it with other businesses as well.

Google has Firmware Version: Google under its android section stores the Firmware and bootloader version of each device it is associated with. Even if those devices are no longer in use.

It also stores sim info and data roaming info of the mobile devices which is bizarre.

LinkedIn like whatsapp stores all Contacts: LinkedIn also requests access to contacts for better recommendations. But has no reasoning on why it is storing those contacts.

Comparison :

Quora is also a social media platform similar to instagram and pinterest. But looking at its data reveals that it does not infer interests and topics it can share with other businesses Unlike instagram and Pinterest.

When it comes to Revealing the businesses the company has shared information with. Meta has clearly specified which exact businesses it has sold data to. Whereas pinterest just adds a speculation saying " We may have shared info with analytic companies and ISPs"

Lesions Learnt:

In an ideal world it is better to avoid these apps to protect our data. But in real world usage of these apps cannot be avoided. The overall impression of this data analysis is that each and every activity done on these apps are being stored permanently. Its better to turn off recommendations and refuse to share data for analytic purposes. Looking at details whenever

consent is asked regarding privacy can be helpful. [

All the companies mentioned below has a way on their website to allow California residents to opt out from their data being monetized

- Apple
- WhatsApp
- Google
- Facebook
- Instagram
- ChatGPT
- Twitter
- Quora
- Pinterest
- LinkedIn
- GitHub