Linnaeus University

1DV700 - Computer Security
Assignment 2: Preliminary survey report

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Attitude towards online privacy

There are many things that can be taken into consideration when it comes to online privacy. Due to lack of time, this survey will only investigate two aspects of this: people's knowledge and attitude towards cookies, as well as their attitude towards anonymity, specifically regarding social media.

Cookies is something that everyone who has been using the internet for the past few years will be familiar with, but do people actually know what it is? As someone interested in technology and programming it might seem obvious but is this the case for the general population? I am interested to know if everyone always allows their cookies to be shared or not. If someone always agrees to their cookies being shared, it does not mean they don't care about their privacy but it could be interesting to see how their knowledge of cookies affect their decisions.

As someone who spends a lot of time on the internet, having the option to remain anonymous seems obvious to me. I am interested to know if this is the opinion of most people. I think it would be interesting to see the correlations between different factors in this case. Does age relate to what people think? Perhaps we can draw correlations between this and the previous questions about cookies. I am also interested to see how people use social media and how that affects their opinion about anonymity.

Questions
The first few questions will be very general and have mostly a statistical value. They might look like this:
- How old are you?
- What is your gender?
- How much do you use the internet? (never, not every day, < 1 hour/day, < 3 hours/day, > 3 hours/day, etc.)

Questions about cookies:
- Have you ever been asked to share your cookies when visiting a web site?
- Do you know what a web cookie is?
- Do you always allow your cookies to be shared when asked?

Questions about anonymity:
- How do you use social media? (multiple choice)
- In your opinion, should people be allowed to hide their identity on social media?
- Have you ever used an anonymous identity on social media? (such as facebook, reddit, instagram, forums, etc)

Hypothesis

Regarding cookies I think most people will not know what they are. Most people probably always agree to their cookies being shared.

Regarding anonymity, I think people who use the internet a lot will think anonymity is good and there is probably a big chance that they have used an anonymous identity online before. This will probably not be the case for other people though and there is a possibility that more people are against anonymity. I think the overall results will depend a lot on how much internet experience the people answering the survey have.