**Privacy markets in the 21st Century (Focus on NSA NOT Snowden) (13 votes)**

[BenChida](https://courses.edx.org/courses/HarvardX/ER22x/2013_Spring/discussion/forum/users/1330541) a day ago

Posted by: privacyisdead

**My name is Dan. The recent NSA scandals have brought privacy concerns about personal data into the international spotlight, and I wanted to explore the moral underpinnings. What is the moral value of privacy?**

Does its value lie in our right to the self-determination of our identity? What frameworks can we use to attempt to find the answers to these questions?

Can society decide a "greater good" trumps any individual's privacy? Do we have a right to do anything we want with our personal data, and can we consent to have others do anything with our data, or are there limits?

**Suppose we could monetize the privacy value of our personal data on one metric, and give each person a privacy budget. Assuming we could build such a "privacy market", I come to my key question: Are there moral limits to privacy markets for personal data?**

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(this post is about [Live Question and Answer Session with Professor Sandel, Part 2 / Top Vote-Getting Questions](https://courses.edx.org/courses/HarvardX/ER22x/2013_Spring/jump_to/i4x:/HarvardX/ER22x/discussion/6efbd5d53d5241b6bf99409448272104))

1. [1](javascript:void(0)) [privacyisdead](https://courses.edx.org/courses/HarvardX/ER22x/2013_Spring/discussion/forum/users/1542507)

about 18 hours ago

What is the moral value of privacy? Does its value lie in our right to the self-determination of our identity? What frameworks can we use to attempt to find the answers to these questions?

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* + We already trade our valuable personal data, which is evaluated for behavioural marketing campaigns, in exchange for access to ‘free’ online services, Facebook, Tumblr, Youtube, Google etc. Big Data's a big commodity. The data capture is out of sight, out of mind and makes us undervalue it.

I'm not sure that it's moral to commodify your own data and reliquish some privacy but it’s pragmatic.

–posted about 14 hours ago by [CarolynH](https://courses.edx.org/courses/HarvardX/ER22x/2013_Spring/discussion/forum/users/627269)

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about 19 hours ago

Response: Unsurprisingly, I would argue that the invasion of our privacy rights justifies the actions of Snowden. It is unfortunate that Snowden cannot be justified as a classic case of civil disobedience, and it may take away from an exoneration of Snowden in that he can be said not to have paid his dues. The secret program, however, must still be brought under scrutiny by the public, so that we may decide as a society whether we find this degree of broad surveillance acceptable.

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