

Lab – Who Owns Your Data?

Objectives

Explore the ownership of your data when that data is not stored in a local system.

Part 1: Explore the Terms of Service Policy Part 2: Do You Know What You Signed Up For?

Background / Scenario

Social media and online storage have become an integral part of many people's lives. Files, photos, and videos are shared between friends and family. Online collaboration and meetings are conducted in the workplace with people who are many miles from each other. The storage of data is no longer limited to just the devices you access locally. The geographical location of storage devices is no longer a limiting factor for storing or backing up data at remote locations.

In this lab, you will explore legal agreements required to use various online services. You will also explore some of the ways you can protect your data.

Required Resources

- PC or mobile device with Internet access

Part 1: Explore the Terms of Service Policy

If you are using online services to store data or communicate with your friends or family, you probably entered into an agreement with the provider. The Terms of Service, also known as Terms of Use or Terms and Conditions, is a legally binding contract that governs the rules of the relationship between you, your provider, and others who use the service.

Navigate to the website of an online service that you use and search for the Terms of Service agreement.

Below is a list of many popular social media and online storage services. **Social Media**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/policies>

Instagram: <http://instagram.com/legal/terms/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/tos>

Pinterest: <https://about.pinterest.com/en/terms-service>

Online Storage iCloud:

<https://www.apple.com/legal/internetservices/icloud/en/terms.html>

Dropbox: <https://www.dropbox.com/terms2014>

OneDrive: <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/microsoft-services-agreement> Review the

terms and answer the following questions.

- a. Do you have an account with an online service provider? If so, have you read the Terms of Service agreement?

- Yes, I use several online platforms, but to be honest, I usually skip over the Terms of Service without reading them fully.

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b. What is the data use policy?

- The data use policy outlines how the service collects, stores, processes, and possibly shares your information with advertisers or other companies.

c. What are the privacy settings?

- These settings allow you to manage who can see your content, limit data sharing, and adjust how much of your information is visible to the public or third parties.

d. What is the security policy?

- The security policy describes the ways the provider works to keep your data secure; this might include using encryption, secure logins, or multi-factor authentication.

e. What are your rights regarding your data? Can you request a copy of your data?

- Yes, as a user, you generally have the right to view, download, or request deletion of your data, depending on the service's policies.

f. What can the provider do with the data you upload?

- Your data might be used to personalize ads, improve the platform's performance, or shared with partner companies for marketing or analysis purposes.

g. What happens to your data when you close your account?

- After closing an account, the provider may delete your data, hold onto it for legal or policy reasons, or keep it stored for a limited time.

Part 2: Do You Know What You Signed Up For?

After you have created an account and agreed to the Terms of Service, do you really know what you have signed up for?

In Part 2, you will explore how the Terms of Service can be interpreted and used by providers.

Use the Internet to search for information regarding how the Terms of Service are interpreted.

Below are a few sample articles to get you started. Facebook:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/social-media/9780565/Facebook-terms-and-conditions-why-you-dontown-your-online-life.html> iCloud:

http://www.americanbar.org/publications/law_practice_today_home/law_practice_today_archive/april12/haveattorneys-read-the-icloud-terms-and-conditions.html Dropbox:

<http://www.legalgenealogist.com/blog/2014/02/24/terms-of-use-change-dropbox/>

Review the articles and answer the following questions.

a. What can you do to protect yourself?

- To better protect myself, I should read and understand the terms before signing up, avoid sharing sensitive content online, and adjust my privacy options to limit exposure.

b. What can you do to safeguard your account and protect your data?

- To keep my account safe, I'll create strong passwords, turn on two-factor authentication, stay alert for scams or phishing, and routinely check my privacy and security settings.