**Should big technology companies (Facebook. Inc) ever be trusted with our personal data? (AGAINST)**

**CONTEXT**

In 2018, The New York Times did an investigation and managed to obtain documents of Facebook’s records. These records shows the company’s internal system for tracking partnerships with other companies, revealing its social network’s data-sharing practices.

**Claim**

Facebook is an untrustworthy company.

**Evidence**

**Firstly**, one evidence to support this claim is tone of the article’s heading, “offering users privacy wall and then let tech giants around it.” This tone of voice is more accusatory of the issue, suggesting that Facebook is the one to blame for letting other tech companies’ access to the private data of its users without hesitation.

**Secondly,** the choice of words used in the article supports this claim. The article states “Facebook has been reeling from a series of privacy scandals, set off by revelations in March”. The word reeling is used here to depict that Facebook has been losing its balance as a company from all the privacy scandals they had.

Another evidence that can be used to support this claim is found within the introduction and the conclusion of the article.

In the **introduction**, it states that “For years, Facebook gave some of the world’s largest technology companies more intrusive access to users’ personal data than it has disclosed.” This suggests that Facebook has been trading and selling user’s personal data to other companies behind their user’s backs.

In the **conclusion**, it states “ How closely Facebook monitored its data partners is uncertain. Most of Facebook’s partners declined to discuss what kind of reviews or audits Facebook subjected them to.” This suggests that Facebook and its partners at the very least are not innocent and have been doing something shady that has yet to be disclosed.

This both ultimately shows how untrustworthy a company Facebook because if they were truly innocent, they would have come clean and transparent to its consumers. This, however, is not apparent as they themselves and their partners refuse to disclose this information.

**How is the source useful in addressing the issue?**

All in all, I think this source provides a in depth look on what Facebook really does with its user’s data. Be it using it for building tools to aid political campaigns such as the one mentioned in the article about President Donald Trump’s 2016 campaign or simply to sell them so that Facebook as a company continue to grow. Thus, the source is useful as it shows that Facebook as a company should not be trusted with personal data as it is untrustworthy.

**CRAAP Analysis: Should big technology companies (Facebook. Inc) ever be trusted with our personal data? (AGAINST)**

**Currency:**

This article was published by The Seattle Times(online) on the 18th of Dec, 2018. This article was originally published on the New York Times, but it has been republished on The Seattle Times.

The article is rather timely onto this news event as similar articles online can be found on The Straits Times, The BBC and more around the same period. Therefore, it is likely to be valid and updated at the time of publishing.

However, since this article was published in 2018, recent events in the past 3 years that happened are not included in the article.

One example of a new development that happened in July last year. The article by CNET states that Facebook allowed thousands of developers with access to user data even after access should have been expired.

Another recent happening is a data breach that happened just this year in April. The article the BBC states that over 533 million user’s data have been scraped by hackers.

Both these events show that Facebook continues to struggle with its security and management of user data.

**Relevance:**

This article tells us of how Facebook handles and manages user’s data. This article is relevant to my research issue as it focuses on whether big tech companies such as Facebook should be trusted with our personal data. This article talks about and details the many scandals and questionable actions that Facebook has taken over the course of a decade. It raises questions on whether Facebook as a company should be trusted with user’s data as the company continues to make empty promises after each scandal.

This is also relevant to all of us because as long as we carry smartphones, communicating online via social media is inevitable. Privacy concerns over social media has been a hot topic over the recent years as we question whether we can truly trust these social media applications to not misuse our own personal data. Although there are already measures in place to protect the privacy of consumers such as privacy rules. These are often neglected, and user’s data are traded and sold to other companies without the user’s knowledge and consent. This is because to these companies, personal data has become a prized commodity as it allows companies to take advantage of information and allows them to push more targeted advertisements and campaigns

**Authority:**

The article is written by 2 investigative reporter, NICHOLAS CONFESSORE, MICHAEL LaFORGIA and edited by GABRIEL J.X. DANCE,

Nicholas Confessore is a New York-based political and investigative reporter at The Times and a staff writer at the Times Magazine, covering the intersection of wealth, power, and influence in Washington and beyond.

Michael LaForgia is a reporter on the investigations desk. He joined The New York Times in 2017

GABRIEL J.X. DANCE is the deputy investigations editor at The New York Times where he works with a small team investigating all things technology.

The article is a collaborative work between the 3, all of which are experienced in their respective fields. One thing to note that it was edited by Gabriel, is an editor that is experienced in investigating things related to technology. Thus, the information presented in the article should be factual and reliable.

**Article reliability**

This article was published on the New York Times website. The New York Times is an American daily newspaper that covers breaking news from all over the world and has developed a reputation for thoroughness, making it generally reliable for topics with no political link. Since this article talks about Facebook and how it misuses user’s data, there is no political bias, thus making the article reliable.

The Seattle Times is a daily newspaper serving Seattle, Washington, United States. It was founded in 1891 and has been controlled by the Blethen family since 1896.

According to media bias fact check, for seattle times, it has a less central bias. This means that most of its information is factual and accurate with wording that attempts to influence an audience by using appeal to emotion or stereotypes

**Accuracy:**

The information provided in the article are about the many scandals and actions Facebook as a company has taken. The article has listed quotes from: Mark Zuckerberg, chief executive of Facebook; Satterfield, a Facebook executive; Ashkan Soltani, former chief technologist at the FTC ; and many others, all of whom have relevance in the topic as they are connected to it. The information and quotes provided by the article have people with different perspectives and of contrasting sides as opposed to just one side. Thus, this strengthens and validity the credibility of the source

When comparing with sources such as the BBC, they have also backed the same information, describing in detail how Facebook shares data with other companies. Since the article’s findings are backed up by other sources, it therefore makes the article credible.

**Purpose:**

The purpose of the source is to persuade readers that Facebook is an untrustworthy company. The intention to persuade readers can be seen from the way the article paints Facebook in a negative light, detailing how it shares its data with other tech companies and its previous privacy scandal. Despite providing quotations from both sides, the article skews in favour of criticizing Facebook as an untrustworthy company.