

# Privacy Tools and Techniques for Developers

-Amber Welch

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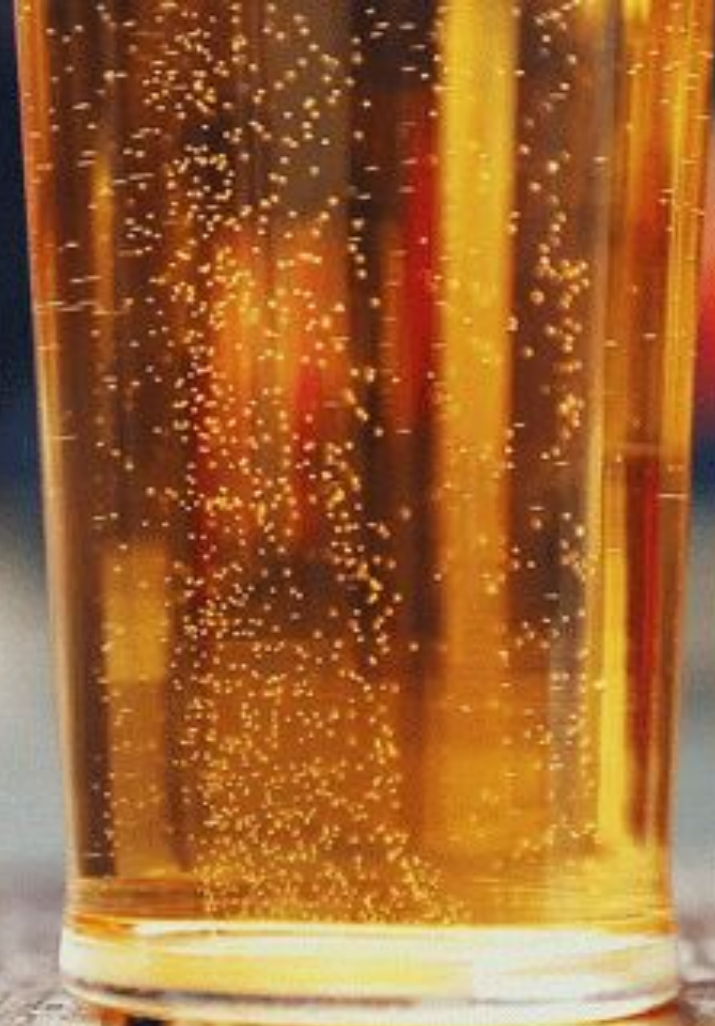
# Menu



- Privacy Engineering Intro
- Privacy by Design
- Privacy Enhancing Technologies



First, an apology.



Legal teams have often  
kept tech out of privacy.

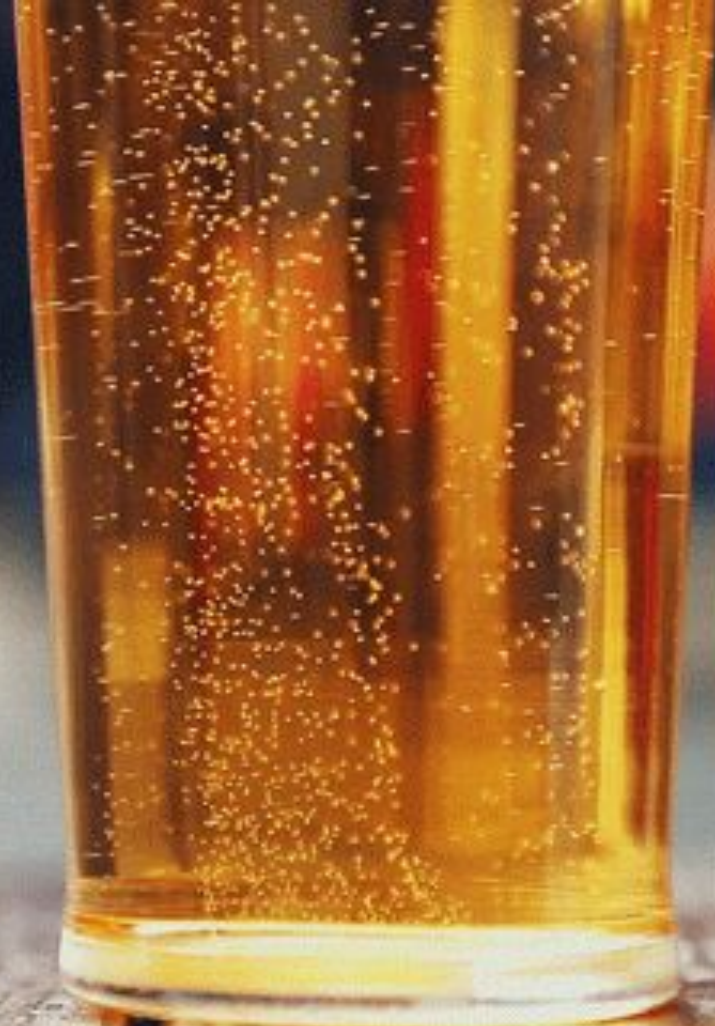


# Developers don't know privacy concepts. Privacy teams haven't taught them.



**Figure 1: Participants' Formal Knowledge on Privacy Concepts**

# Privacy Impact Assessment





# Description

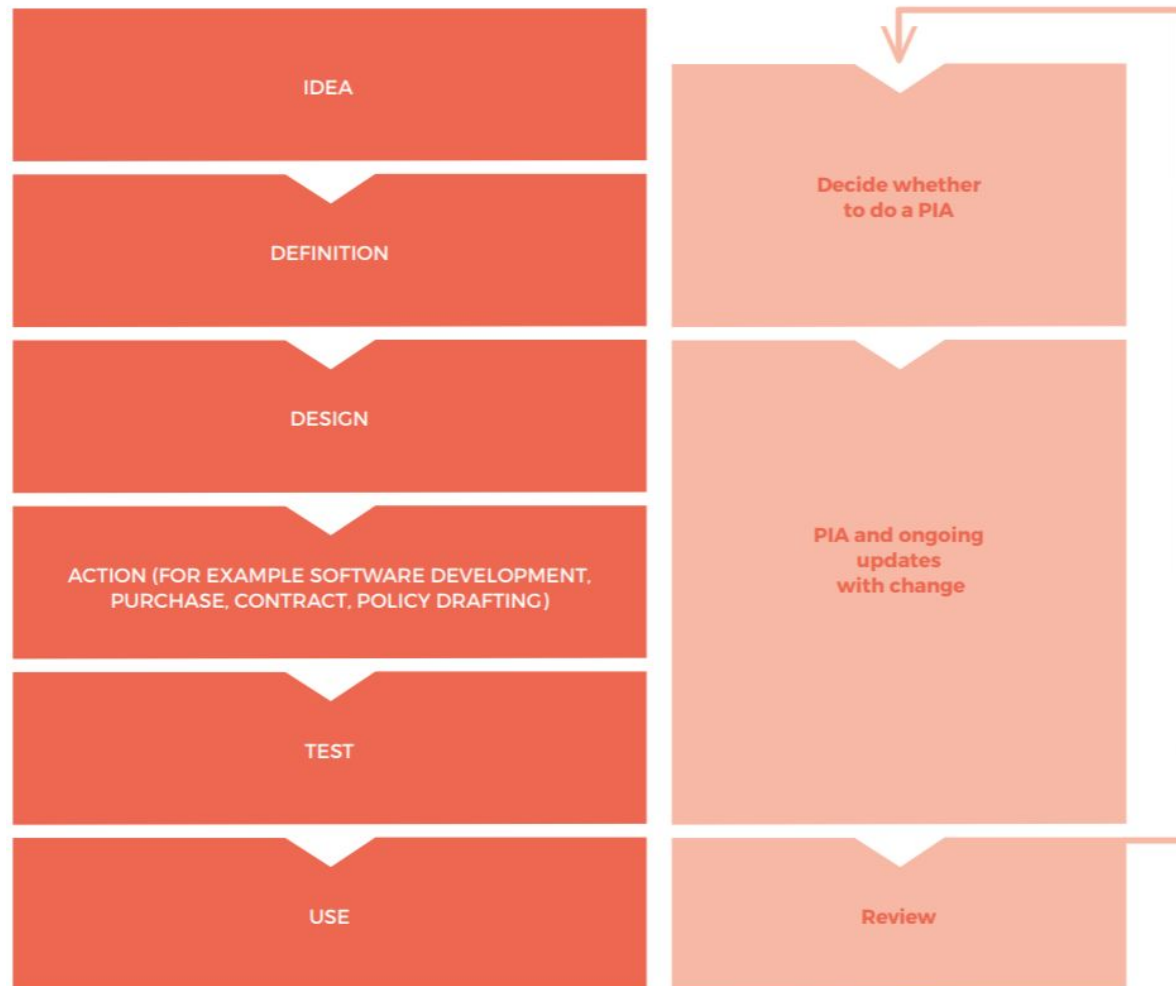
A Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) is a method to:

- Identify privacy risk
- Map personal data flows
- Document privacy risk mitigations
- Fulfill regulatory requirements





## Privacy Impact Assessment throughout an initiative



# Use Cases

- New applications
- Adding functions and features
- Collecting new sensitive personal data
- Annual reviews or audits

# Tasting Notes

## Benefits

- Legal compliance
- Identify and reduce privacy risks
- Catch privacy errors



# Tasting Notes

## Benefits

- Legal compliance
- Identify and reduce privacy risks
- Catch privacy errors

## Limitations

- High time investment
- Ineffective if not completed well
- Not a security risk assessment

# Data Minimization and Retention





# Description

Data minimization is:

- Collecting only necessary data
- Maintaining and updating data
- Deleting old data that isn't needed





# Use Cases

- New applications
- API integrations
- Adding functions and features
- Collecting new personal data
- Customer termination

# Tasting Notes

## Benefits

- Legal compliance
- Minimize volume of data to be breached
- Improve data quality



# Tasting Notes

## Benefits

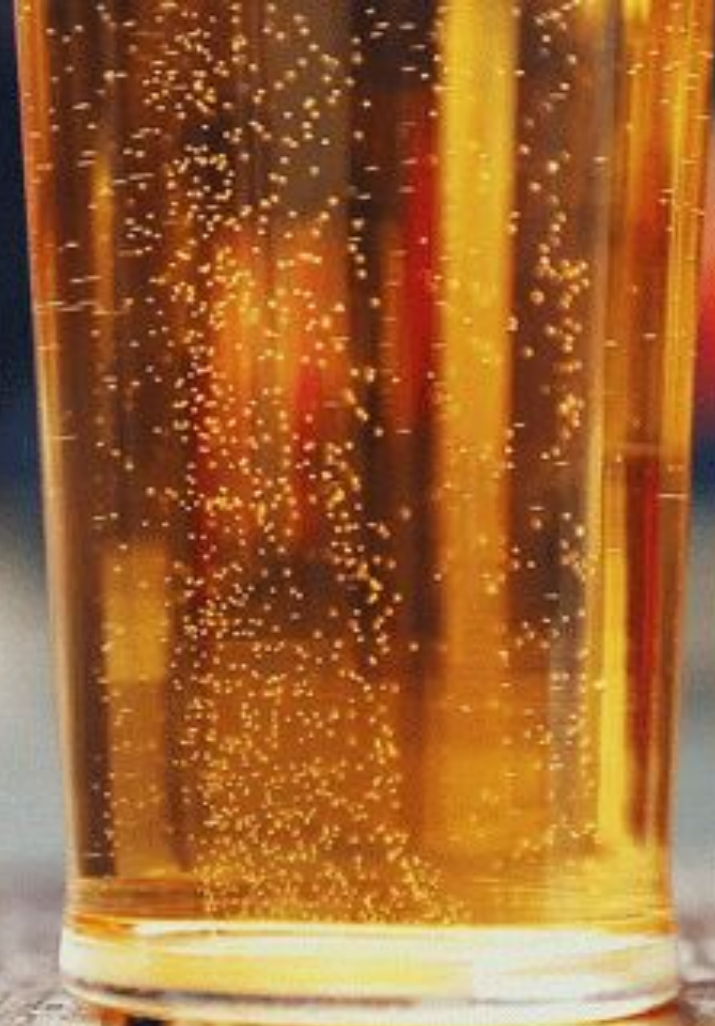
- Legal compliance
- Minimize volume of data to be breached
- Improve data quality

## Limitations

- Users may be frustrated
- Companies like to keep all the data



# Default Settings



# Description

Default settings for privacy should:

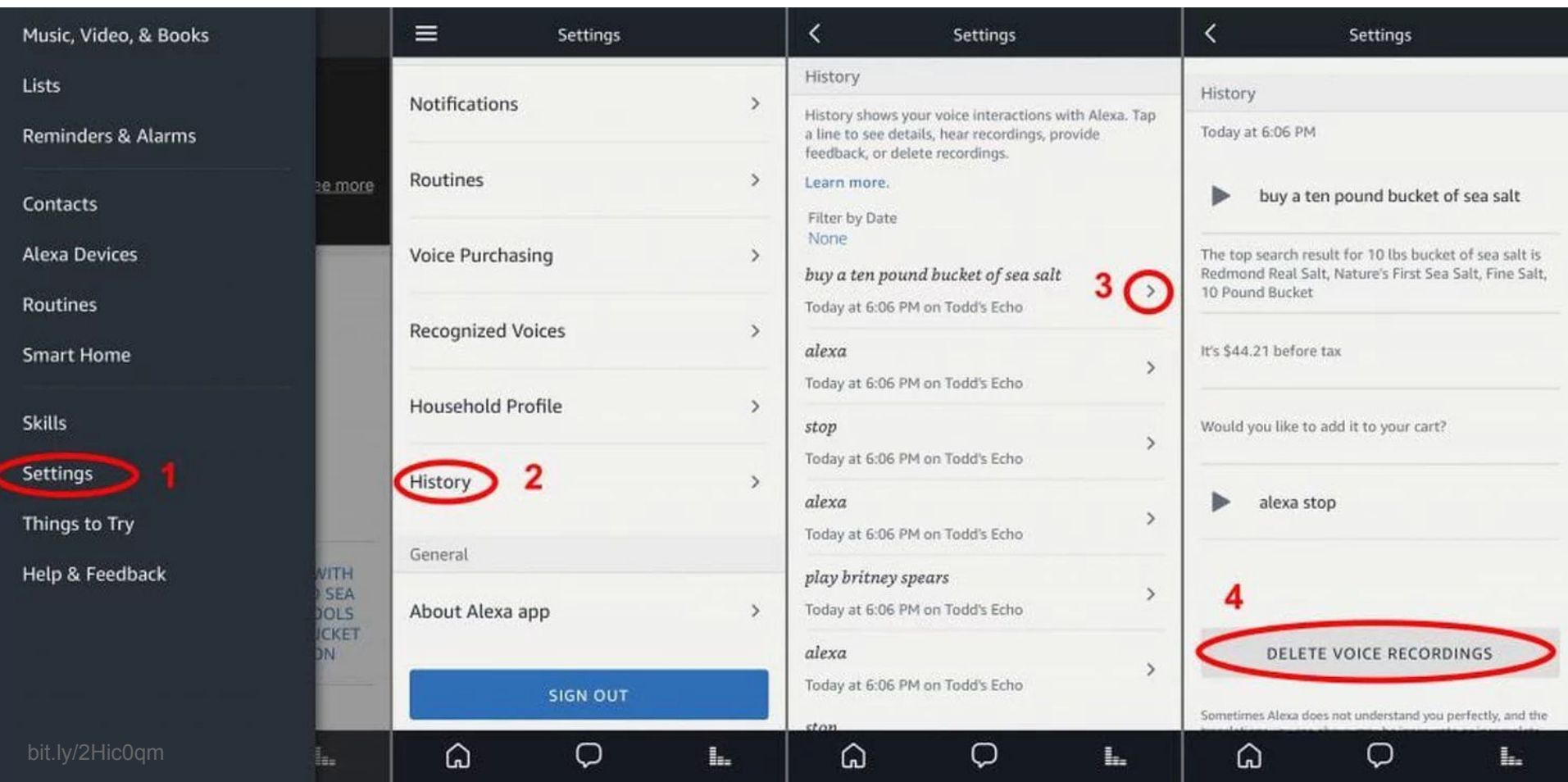
- Minimize personal data collected
- Prevent default data sharing
- Require enabling of intrusive settings
- Avoid making data public by default





Less than 5% of general users change any default settings, while programmers change 40% of settings.





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## How AT&T Communicates with Customers

Automated Messages

## How AT&T Uses Customer Data

External Marketing & Analytics Reports

DNS Error Assist

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> Manage your preferences

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By choosing **Yes** below, you as the account holder agree to the [terms and conditions](#) of the Enhanced Relevant Advertising program. Your choice applies to all users of your account. Your choice doesn't affect anyone on your account's ability to use our products and services. You may revoke your consent at anytime. It may take up to 7 days to complete your request.

Please note, your choice for Relevant Advertising is separate.

#### Service

Wireless number:

Wireless number:

Allow use of information?

☐ No☐ No

# Tasting Notes

## Benefits

- Reputation for privacy
- Reduce user frustration
- Protect less educated users



# Tasting Notes

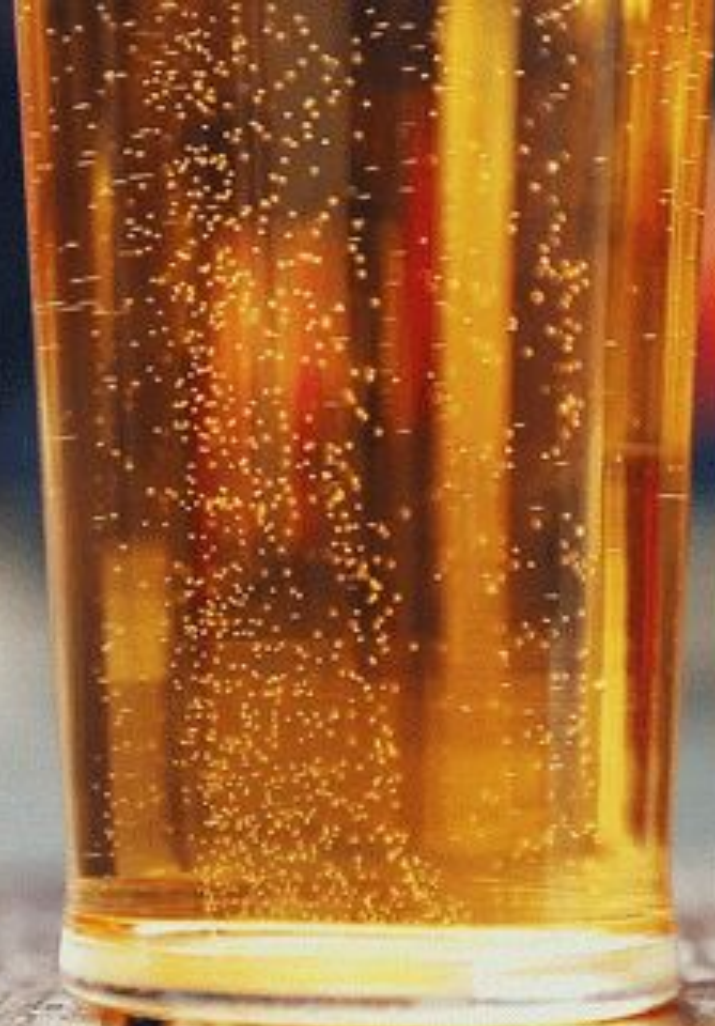
## Benefits

- Legal compliance
- Reputation for privacy
- Reduce user frustration
- Protect less educated users

## Limitations

- Companies may want to monetize intrusive apps
- Requires privacy awareness at design

# Encryption





# Encrypt these:

- TLS
- Email and messaging
- Databases
- Cloud storage
- Backups
- Password management
- Endpoint devices



## Don't:

- Make your own crypto
- Use deprecated crypto (i.e., SHA1)
- Hard code keys
- Store keys on the same server as the data
- Use one key for everything
- Skip password hash and salt
- Forget to restore certificates after testing
- Use old crypto libraries

# Differential Privacy



# Description

Differential privacy:

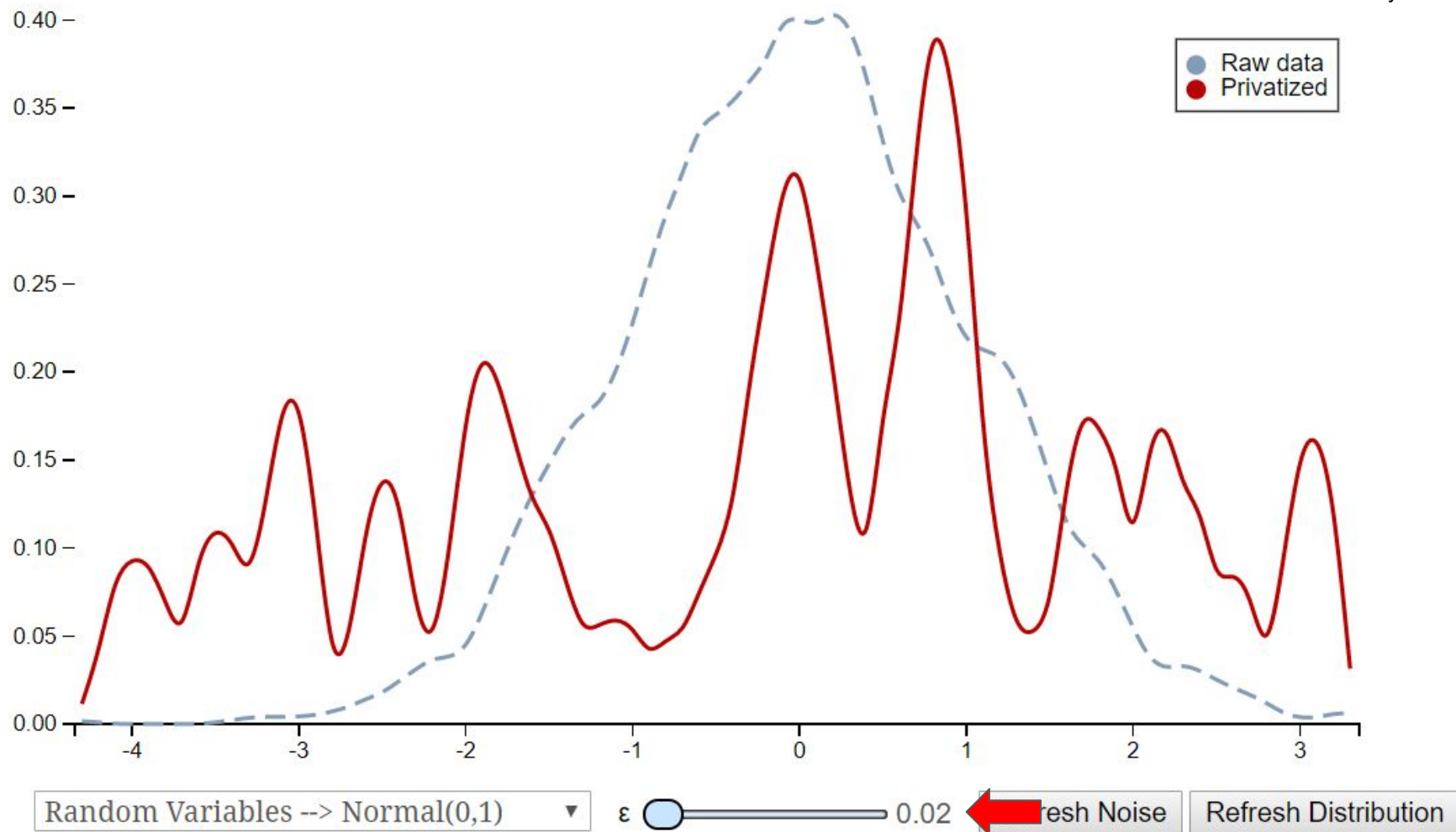
- Adds statistical noise to a data set
- Prevents identification of one individual's record
- Provides the same results as the raw data would, with or without one record

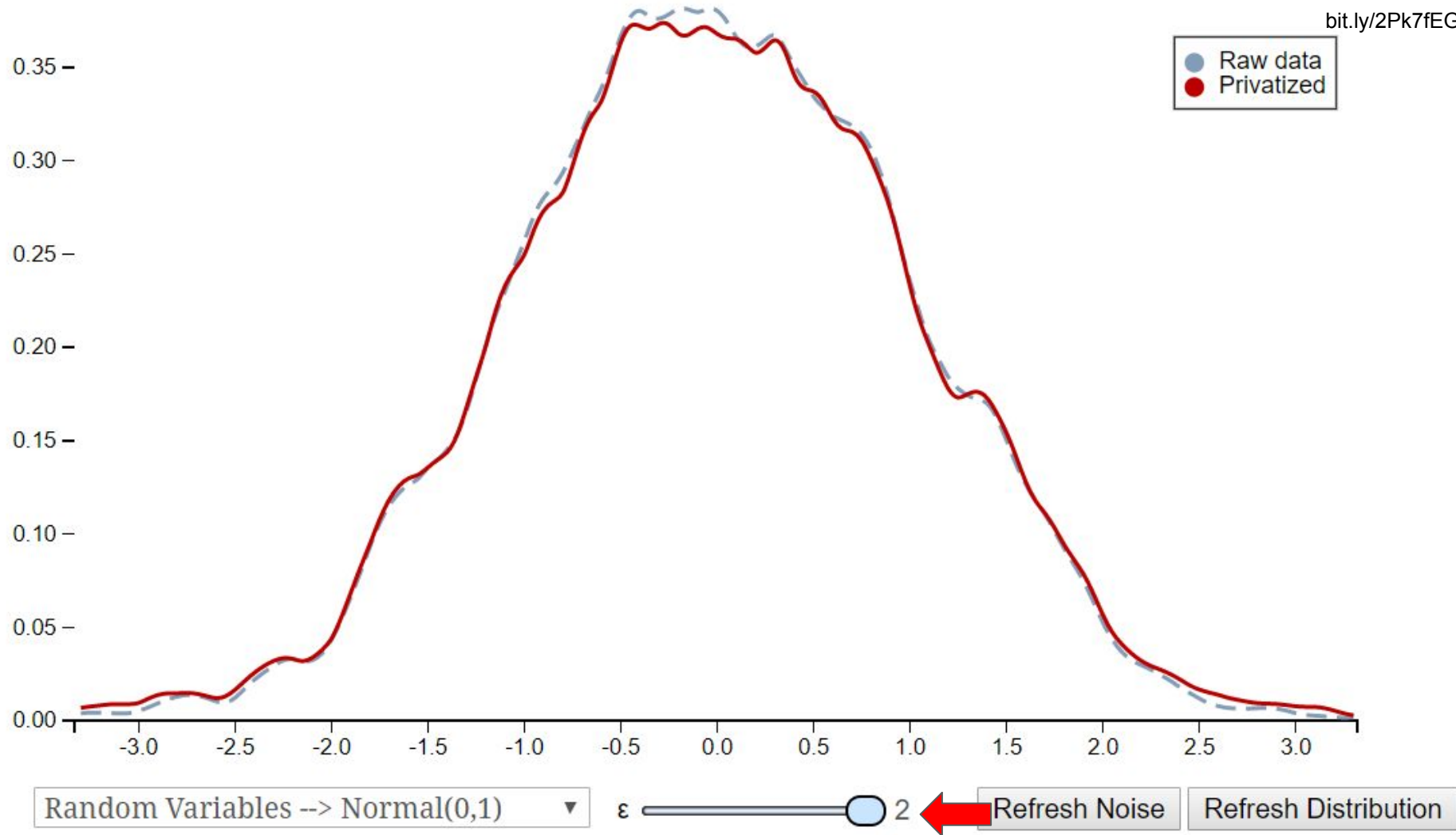




**Table I.** Privacy Models

| Privacy Model                    | Attack Model   |                   |               |                      |
|----------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|
|                                  | Record Linkage | Attribute Linkage | Table Linkage | Probabilistic Attack |
| $k$ -Anonymity                   | ✓              |                   |               |                      |
| MultiR $k$ -Anonymity            | ✓              |                   |               |                      |
| $\ell$ -Diversity                | ✓              | ✓                 |               |                      |
| Confidence Bounding              |                | ✓                 |               |                      |
| $(\alpha, k)$ -Anonymity         | ✓              | ✓                 |               |                      |
| $(X, Y)$ -Privacy                | ✓              | ✓                 |               |                      |
| $(k, e)$ -Anonymity              |                | ✓                 |               |                      |
| $(\epsilon, m)$ -Anonymity       |                | ✓                 |               |                      |
| Personalized Privacy             |                | ✓                 |               |                      |
| $t$ -Closeness                   |                | ✓                 |               | ✓                    |
| $\delta$ -Presence               |                |                   | ✓             |                      |
| $(c, t)$ -Isolation              | ✓              |                   |               | ✓                    |
| $\epsilon$ -Differential Privacy |                |                   | ✓             | ✓                    |
| $(d, \gamma)$ -Privacy           |                |                   | ✓             | ✓                    |
| Distributional Privacy           |                |                   | ✓             | ✓                    |







# Tasting Notes

## Benefits

- Limit insider threats
- Increase data usability
- Allows for collaboration without exposing data



# Tasting Notes

## Benefits

- Legal compliance
- Limit exposure from security incidents
- Limit insider threats

## Limitations

- Works best on large databases
- Must be tuned well

# Privacy Preserving Ad Click Attribution



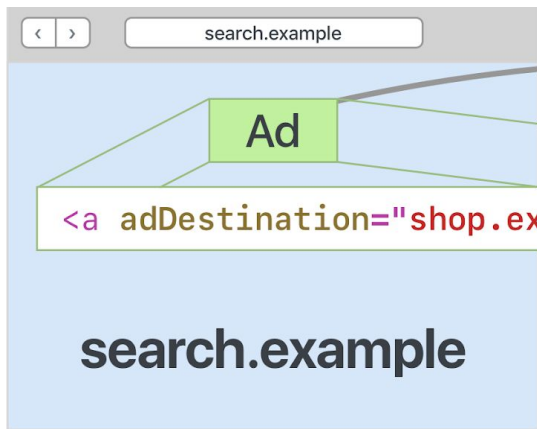


# Description

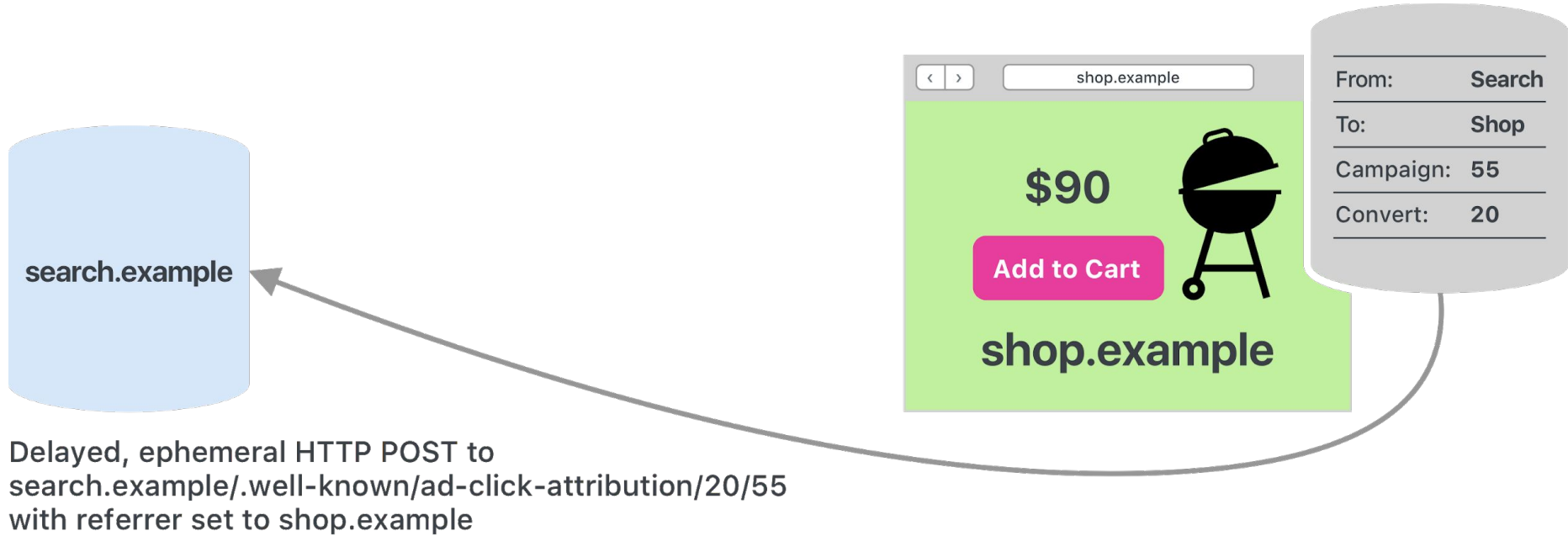
Privacy preserving ad click attribution:

- Allows ad attribution monetization
- Prevents user ad click tracking
- Uses the browser to mediate ad clicks



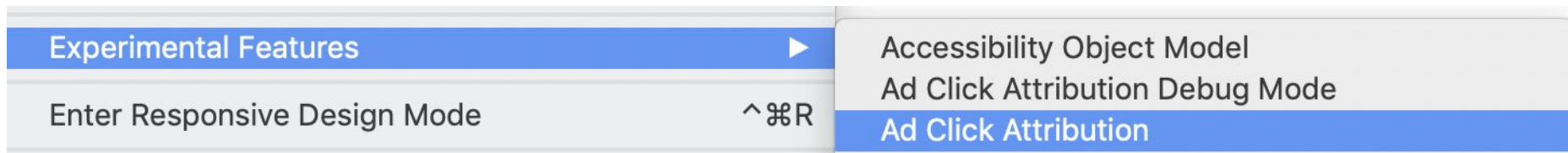


|           |        |
|-----------|--------|
| From:     | Search |
| To:       | Shop   |
| Campaign: | 55     |





# Available now as an experimental feature



# Tasting Notes

## Benefits

- Allows websites to still monetize content
- Could become a W3C web standard



# Tasting Notes

## Benefits

- Allows websites to still monetize content
- Could become a W3C web standard

## Limitations

- Needs widespread adoption to be effective
- Users may not believe any ads respect privacy



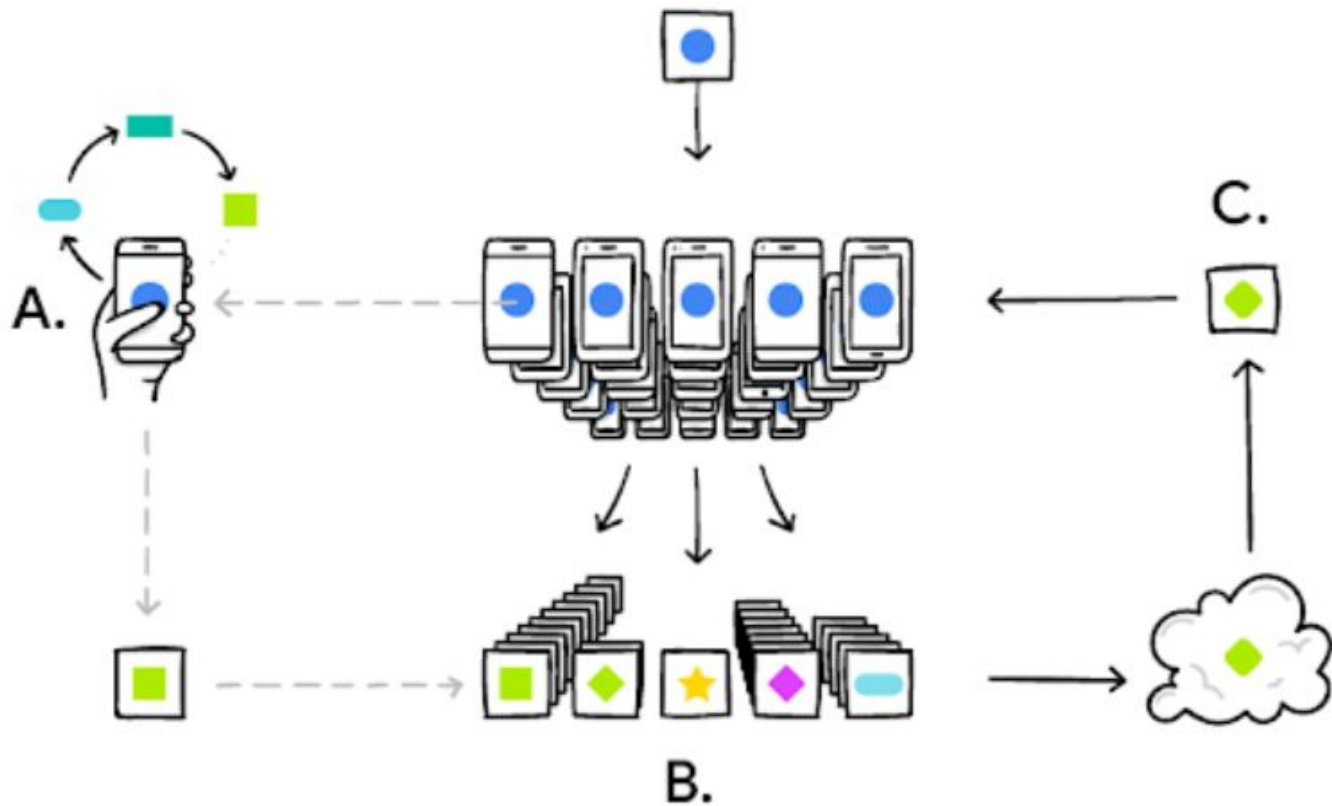
# Federated Learning

# Description

Federated learning:

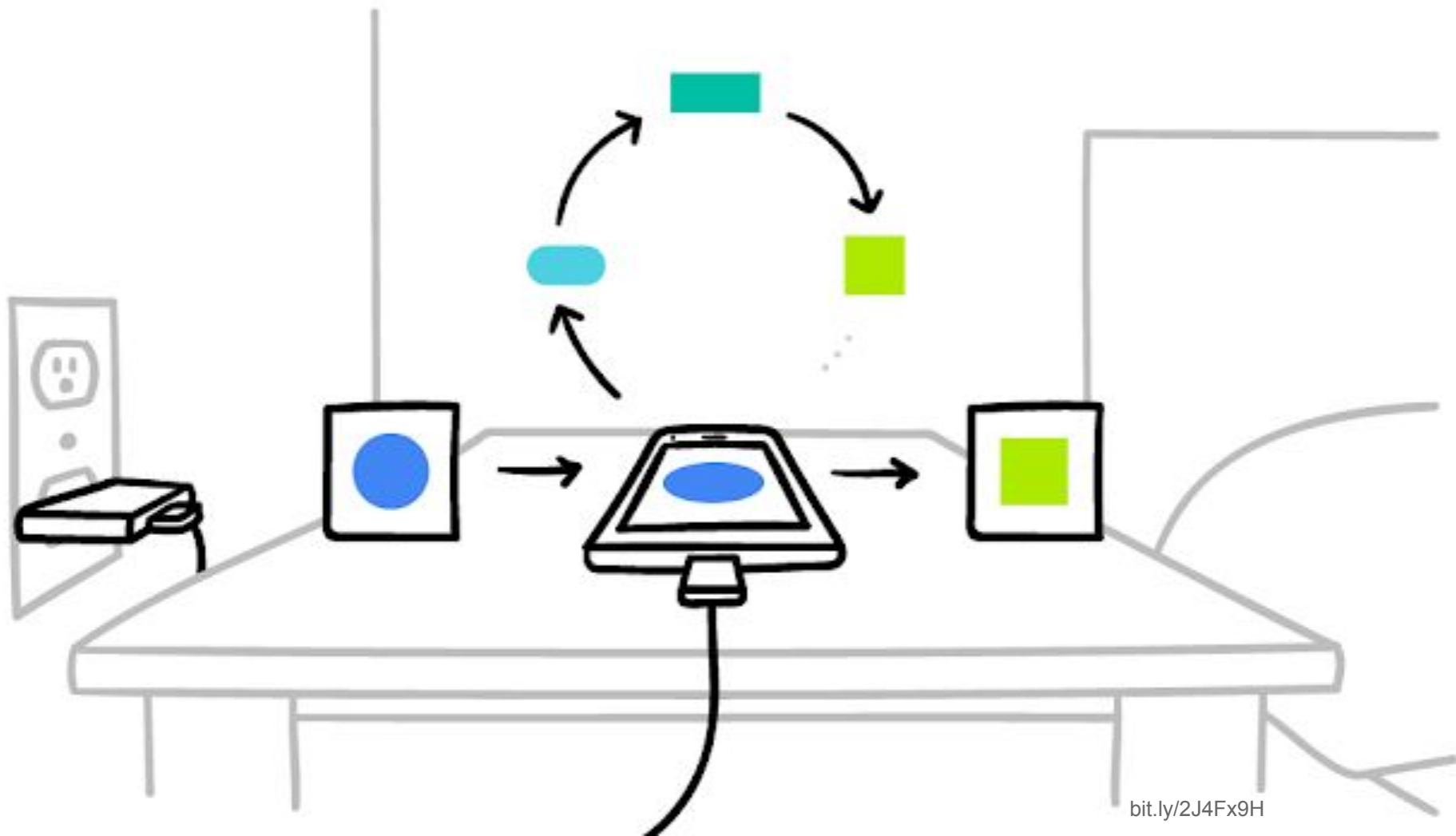
- Trains a central model on decentralized data
- Never transmits device data
- Sends iterative model updates to devices which return new results
- Uses secure aggregation to decrypt only the aggregate and no user data





Your phone personalizes the model locally, based on your usage (A). Many users' updates are aggregated (B) to form a consensus change (C) to the shared model, after which the procedure is repeated.





# Use Cases

- Android's Gboard prediction model
- Health diagnostics
- Behavioral preference learning
- Driver behavior

# Tasting Notes

## Benefits

- Speeds up modeling and testing
- Minimally intrusive
- Individual data is not accessible to the central model



# Tasting Notes

## Benefits

- Speeds up modeling and testing
- Minimally intrusive
- Individual data is not accessible to the central model

## Limitations

- Errors could cause private data leakage
- Requires a large user base

# Homomorphic Encryption





# Description

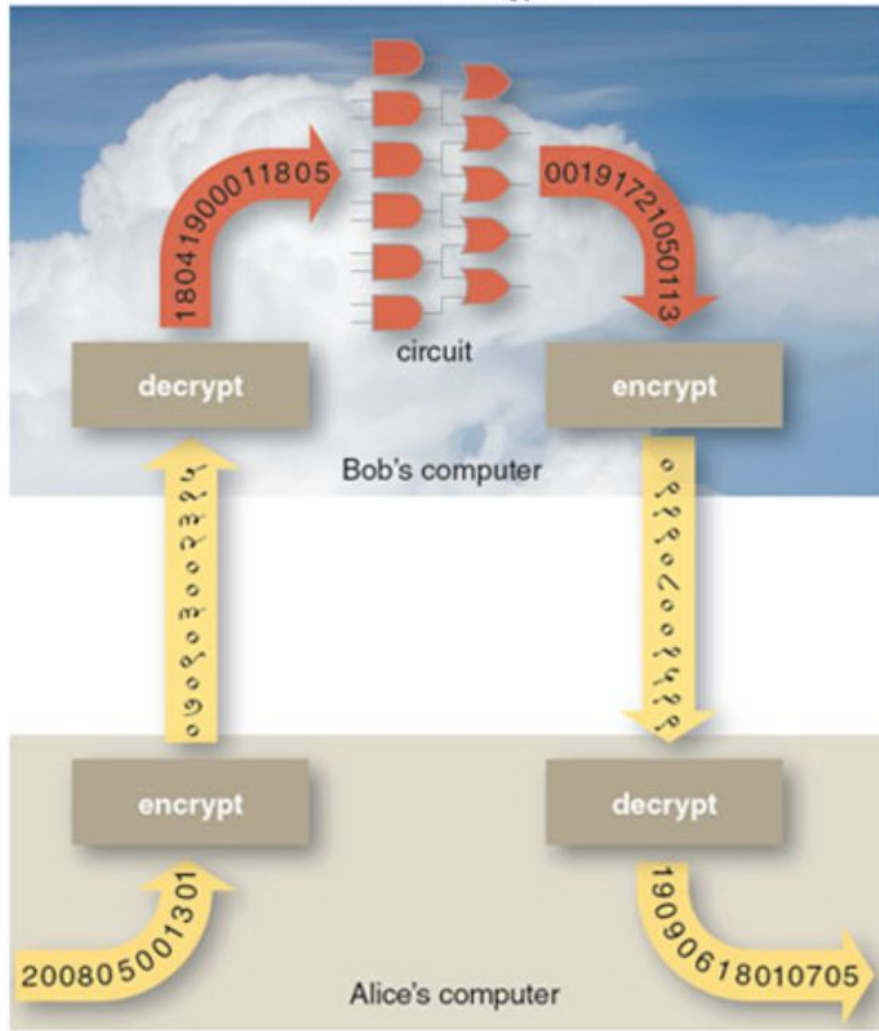
Homomorphic encryption:

- Allows computation on ciphertext
- Enables collaboration without disclosing confidential data
- Only the calculation results can be decrypted

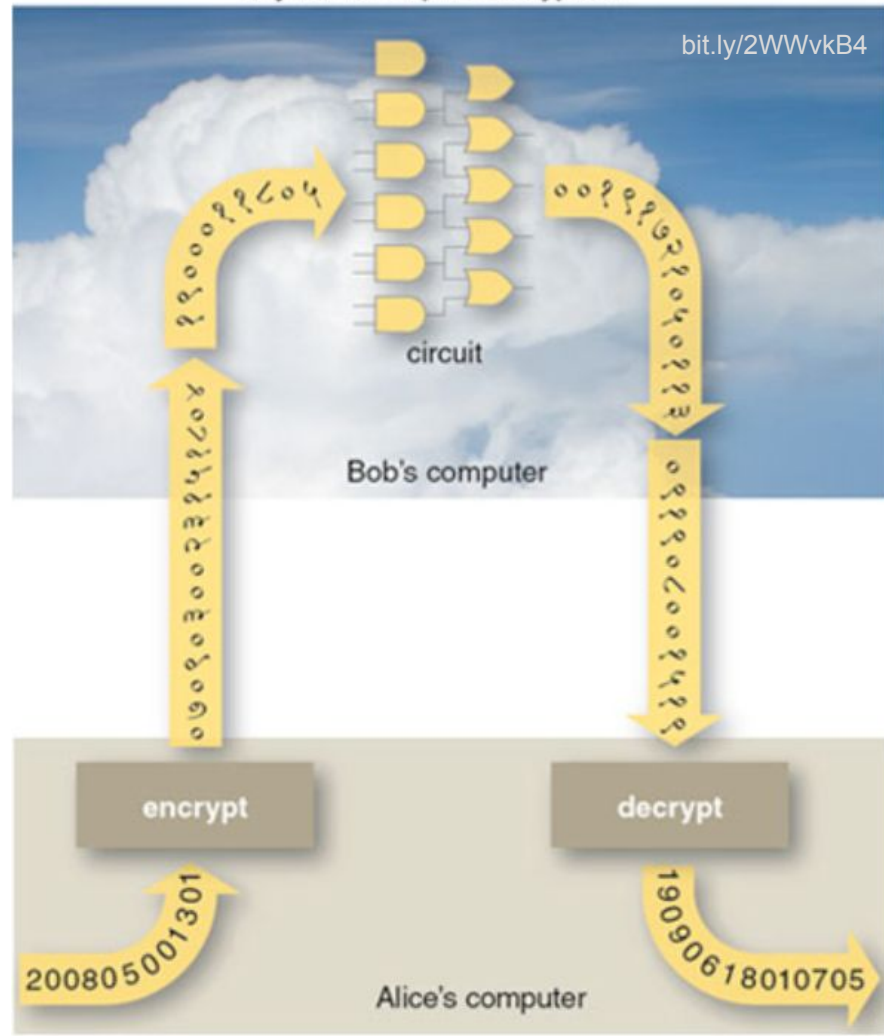




conventional encryption



fully homomorphic encryption



# Use Cases

- Computations on data shared across organizations
- Research using highly sensitive records
- Processing by employees with a lower clearance
- Google's open source Private Join and Compute

# Tasting Notes

## Benefits

- Reduces insider threat
- Increases collaboration
- Increases data usability



# Tasting Notes

## Benefits

- Reduces insider threat
- Increases collaboration
- Increases data usability

## Limitations

- Resource-intensive
- Limited functions
- No fully homomorphic encryption available yet

# Becoming a Privacy Champion





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