Discussion-6 Freedom and security are not always compatible.

Discussion Topic:

Freedom and security are not always compatible. Discuss what you have learned about privacy, or the lack thereof, in today's technology. Is privacy at a comfortable level in general for you? Is it possible to have a privacy level you're comfortable with considering the threats that exist on the internet and elsewhere?

My Post:

Hello Class,

The relationship between freedom and security has been discussed since the beginning of society. This relationship has become more complex with the emergence of electronic devices and computing in the digital age, particularly concerning the realm of individual privacy. In recent decades, digital technologies' pervasive nature has ignited a discussion about surveillance and the extent to which it impacts personal freedom (RocketMe Up Cybersecurity, 2024). This post examines the tensions between privacy and security in our modern digital era.

It is important to understand the difference between privacy and security. In a technological context, privacy can be defined as the individual's right to control the collection, utilization, and dissemination of their personal information or data (CIO Today, n.d.). This can be further defined as the ability to manage one's digital identity and interactions, that is informational privacy, which refers to the right to govern how personal data is gathered, stored, and employed (Okta, 2024). This concept of "intellectual privacy" can be interpreted as the freedom to think and explore ideas without unwarranted governmental oversight (Richards, 2013). Security, on the other hand, in a technological context, can be defined as the act of safeguarding data and systems against unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction. Cybersecurity, within computing systems, plays a central role in safeguarding data and the systems by protecting them from breaches and leaks. This can, at times, encroach upon individual privacy rights by sometimes needing the collection and monitoring of personal data, blurring the lines of individual privacy.

Implementing security comes with a double edge. With one side enabling both security measures and surveillance capabilities to prevent crime and safeguard national interests to the detriment of privacy (RocketMe Up Cybersecurity, 2024). While the other side protects, privacy rights to the detriment of security by potentially limiting the ability of law enforcement and intelligence agencies to access data needed for investigations and threat prevention. This relationship creates a complex interplay where security measures can infringe on privacy through surveillance, but they can also protect privacy by securing personal data.

As to answer the question: is privacy at a comfortable level for me? It is a difficult question to answer. For me, it is a constant balancing act. However, I am not completely comfortable with how much of my data is out there, for anyone to use and profit from. Things like online tracking, data collection by apps,

and the potential for government surveillance...

On the other hand, I also appreciate the security that some of these measures provide. I want my online banking to be secure, and I understand that some level of data monitoring is necessary to prevent cybercrime. It is definitely a double-edged sword.

To summarize, privacy and security are intertwined. While security is crucial for protecting individuals and national interests, it can also infringe on personal privacy. On the other hand, prioritizing privacy absolutely can create vulnerabilities that impact security. My personal experience reflects this relationship, I want to benefit from a connected world, but I am also aware and uneasy about the potential costs to my privacy.

-Alex

References:

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