



CSCI 215

Social and Ethical Issues in Computer Science

The right to be forgotten



Example: Holly Graf, David Schnell



The right to be forgotten

- The **right to be forgotten** is the right to have private information about a person be removed from Internet searches and other directories under some circumstances. The concept has been discussed and put into practice in both the [European Union](#) (EU) and in [Argentina](#) since 2006 – Wikipedia
 - Governs how personal data must be collected, processed and erased
 - Legal right to force erasure of links to data on the Internet
- Not a right in the United States



The right to be forgotten

- <https://www.mtsu.edu/first-amendment/article/1562/right-to-be-forgotten>



The right to be forgotten

- Controversy if accepted as a universal human right
 - Does this constitute censorship?
 - Does this rewrite history or remove parts of history?
 - How does it effect the public's right to know?



The right to be forgotten

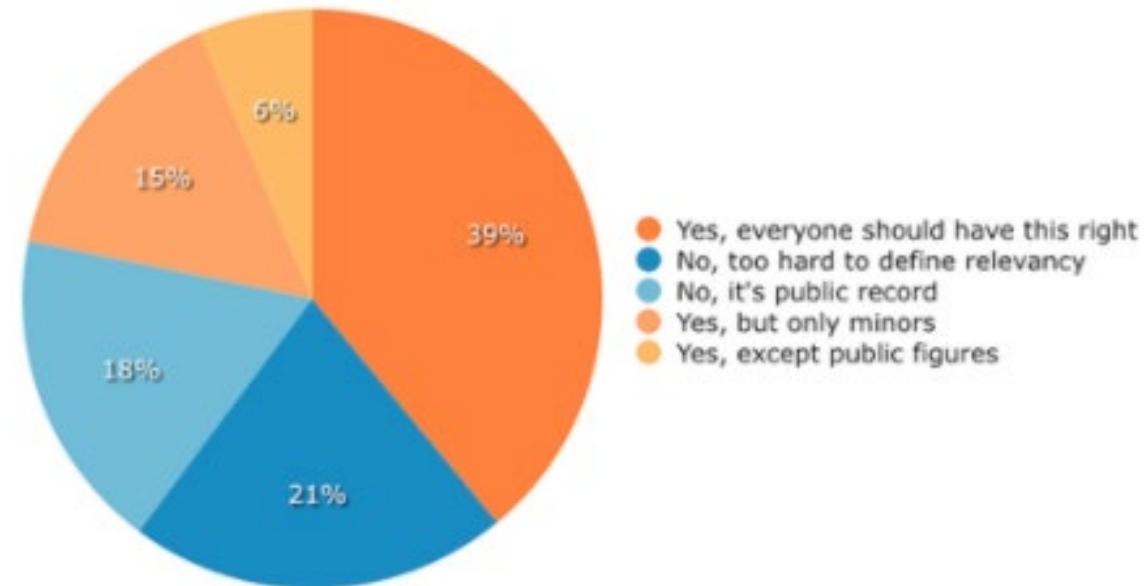
Sixty-one percent of Americans believe some version of the right to be forgotten is necessary.

Thirty-nine percent want a European-style blanket right to be forgotten, without restrictions.

Nearly half of respondents were concerned that "irrelevant" search results can harm a person's reputation.

Survey of 500 americans by Software Advice in 2014

Opinions on the Right to Remove "Irrelevant" Information from Search Results

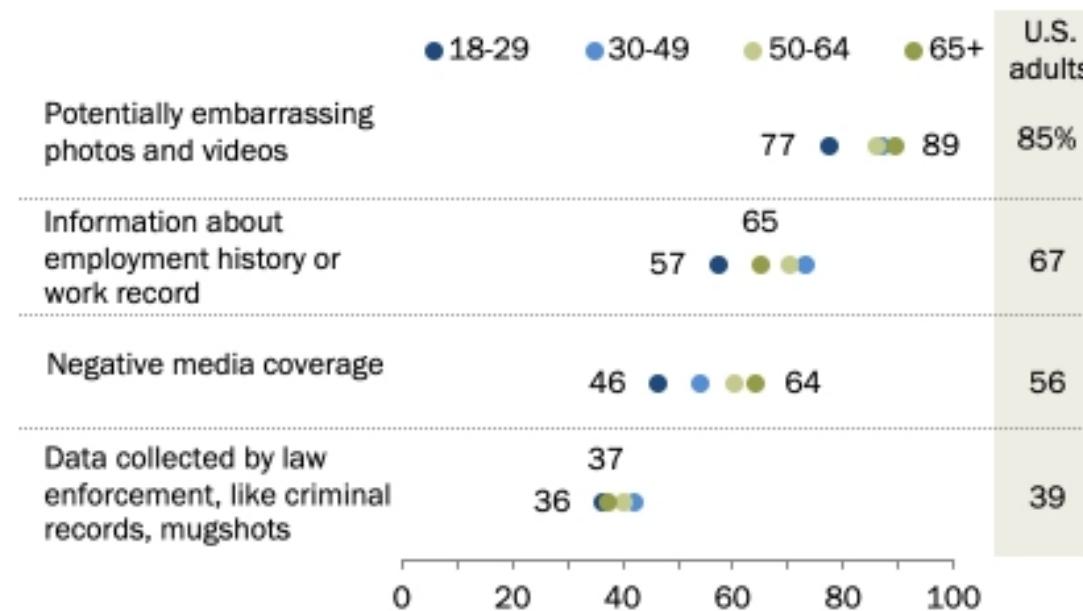




The right to be forgotten

Older Americans generally more likely than younger adults to support the right to have certain information removed from public online searches

% of U.S. adults, by age, who say that all Americans should have the right to have ___ removed from public online search results



Note: Those who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted June 3-17, 2019.