**Do you feel the technologies you interact with on a daily basis respect your privacy? Why or why not?**

I feel the technologies I interact with on a daily basis do not respect my privacy.

The author tells a story at the beginning of this excerpt about a commercial dataset obtained by the *New York Times* in 2018. The dataset consisted of location information from phone apps used to provide users with mundane information such as weather reports. This dataset built from the locations of hundreds of millions of people was meant to be used for commercial reasons, but the *New York Times* was able to identify and track a woman named Lisa Magrin, as she was the only person who commuted daily from her home in upstate New York to the school where she worked. I don’t understand how Lisa was made aware that the *New York Times* had access to so much of her personal information, but I definitely consider this a breach of privacy, and I think many of us are unaware of how often we are data points.

I track my friends and family through Find My Friends, and they track me back. Sometimes it can be annoying to be tracked, but I also think it is a good way to check on the people you love and make sure they are safe. Like many people, I am extremely attached to my phone. Life would be very different and more difficult if I did not have one. Because my phone is always nearby, I am allowing it to always be able to track my location and hear what I am saying. This definitely feels like a breach of privacy, especially if information taken in by my phone is being used in a dataset without my knowledge or consent.

**Summarize the key takeaways of this excerpt for a friend. Does not need to be exhaustive, but maybe a paragraph or two highlighting the main ideas.**

This excerpt from “The Ethical Algorithm” by Michael Kearns and Aaron Roth introduces us to lots of ideas about algorithms and machine learning. With so many people in our world today, we are continuing to create and process huge datasets, and use algorithms to automate important decisions. So, we need to make sure ethical principles are encoded into these algorithms to ensure privacy and fairness for the people they affect.

We learn that an algorithm is a precisely specified series of instructions used to perform a concrete task. People can design algorithms to sort datasets of arbitrary size. Sorting algorithms may be basic in the world of computer science, but they are fundamental and important for handling data. It is important for computer scientists to consider algorithmic trade-offs, such as computational speed, amount of memory required, and amount of communication required between algorithms on separate computers when writing software.

More complicated algorithms, called machine learning algorithms, are automatically derived from data. This means that a computer scientist can hand-code a “meta-algorithm” that will produce another algorithm, called a model. A model is derived from the dataset put into the meta-algorithm, rather than being directly designed by the scientist themselves. Machine learning is where things can go wrong in the ethical department as there may be flaws in the widely accepted design principles that coders use to write meta-algorithms. This can cause the indirectly formed models to have unintentional biases towards certain inputs. So, we need to understand how to design algorithms that respect societal norms of privacy and fairness.