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My definition of privacy is basically having your information only accessible by the intended audience. Everyone has secrets, and while secrets are supposed to be kept, well, secret, they sometimes end up getting told to others. Privacy is making sure that only the few people you want to know about whatever the secret is find out about it. Before the internet, privacy was much easier. You only had to worry about your physical self, and keeping your mouth shut when it needed to and documents classified when they needed to be. Now, in the 21st century, you have to worry about your physical identity as well as your virtual identity. According to Kimberlee Morrison in her article titled “How Many Photos Are Uploaded to Snapchat Every Second?”, she says that users post about 350 million photos every day, which equates to 4,501 pictures per second. With that many pictures being shared, there are definitely going to be privacy concerns. If the wrong person gets the wrong snapchat sent to them at the wrong time, bad things could definitely happen. And if Snapchat gets hacked, that means their users are in for a bad time.

My online privacy is important to me, but not as important as it probably should be. I always hear about how much information Facebook and Google collect about pretty much every single little thing I do, but those two services are among the two I use most. I’ve had a Facebook account since I was 12 years old (don’t tell Mark Zuckerberg I broke the 13-year-old age restriction please!), and an Android smartphone (Android basically being owned by Google) since I’ve had enough money to have a phone. I would like for my info to be kept to myself, because it’s really none of their business what I do, but I see no reproductions from pretty much anything I’ve done online, so I tend not to worry too much about what information they’ve collected. In my mind it’s along the lines of “out of sight, out of mind”, and so far, it’s all been out of sight.

Probably the biggest threat to my privacy is using Google Chrome without having any settings on my cookies. I’ve always meant to read up on what exactly cookies are and what to do about them, but I’ve always just gone with the flow and never really bothered, because everything’s been working fine and I don’t mean to mess anything up. I’ve always had an ad blocker extension, but when it comes to info stored in my browser, I’m all open. I’m definitely going to change my settings and use Duck Duck Go to search, because I don’t particularly want to be tracked.

Being a computer science major, I’ve always been really interested in technology, so I’ve known about privacy issues with the internet and I’ve read up about a lot of the big data breaches and hackers getting into users’ data, so this has pretty much been baked into my mind ever since I started using the internet for information consumption. Again, as long as nothing affects me I’m going to keep running with it, so I’ll read pretty much anything and look up whatever, even though saying that makes me cringe because I shouldn’t think that way.