

## Personal Data

The topic that I will be covering and researching for this Capstone Project in the IT world is the topic of personal data. Personal data is anything that is personal to you, it can be something as simple as your full name involving your first, middle, and last, or it can be something as complicated as your medical records. Anything that is personal to you and involves you can be considered as personal data. We encounter using our personal data with everyday events such as creating a Facebook account or signing off on bank paperwork, if it is pertaining to you and can be used to identify you alone or in conjunction with something else it can be classified as your personal data. With the use of personal data in everyday life people are becoming less restrictive with keeping their personal data safe. People will create passwords using this data or they will leave files that contain sensitive information open as they go and do something else for a quick moment. Personal data has been around for as long as records of people have been kept. The first of this data was birth certificates. Birth certificates were used in order to be able confirm you were the person you say you are. Having a birth certificate would allow you to purchase land or even set up a bank account with the local bank. As time went on more and more things have become used as personal data. Coming back to the present if you are creating a Facebook account you will need an active email address, a password and then you can fill out information such as birthdate who your relatives are and other information pertaining to you. This is all considered personal data now. Even though this information may not seem vital to you people can use these little bits and pieces of information to create a false identity of you if they wished.

From recent events from the website Ashley Madison I have become curious on what happens to someone's information and data after they terminate an account with a certain site whether it is Twitter, Zoosk, or even EBay. Does all their data become erased and forgotten or is it put on the back burner? My hypothesis is your personal data that you input into websites to create a profile or an account is never truly deleted. Once you decide to terminate your account your information is stored on a server that is not reachable from the outside. My objective in order to find the answer and be able to test out my hypothesis will be to make an email account for use of this project only. Once I have created this email I will be creating multiple accounts and profiles with sites that are going to need personal data in order to finalize the account. I will then go through the privacy statements of these sites and termination acknowledgement statements to see if there is any information pertaining to what will happen to my information. I will also call the companies and try to reach someone who deals with people's personal information and security on these sites during and after the accounts use. After the Ashley Madison incident there have been many experts giving their opinions and comments on this matter that I will be researching. Also I will be looking into scholarly articles about people's digital personal data and the importance of keeping it safe. My assumptions for this project are that I will be able to find out a good bit of information as to what happens to someone's personal information. I hope that I will receive cooperation from the companies

when I try to reach out and find out more information with what happens to someone personal data, though I do believe for most companies I will find that information's in the privacy statements and terminations acknowledgment statement. I believe since personal data protection is becoming more and more aware I will be able find good research and sources for this project. The faculty member that I have chosen to be my mentor is Dr. Murphy. I have chosen Dr. Murphy because she has known me since the start of my career here at Marymount; she has also been my advisor for the past year. Dr. Murphy has been good guidance for me here at Marymount with keeping my head straight and my mind focused on the task at hand. The key reason I have chosen Dr. Murphy to be my faculty mentor is because she is very forward and to the point with answering my questions witch is the best way I receive, and process information and I believe because of this Dr. Murphy will be a tremendous help for me completing the Capstone project. On Tuesday September 8<sup>th</sup> I made conformation with Dr. Murphy that she has agreed to be my mentor for this project.

The timeline for this project will be based on a weekly time line. Each week there will be certain goals that will be needed to be reached and completed. For the first week there was research on the designated topic that I wanted to look into. For the second week I will begin to act on my topic with research. This will include making an email address and choosing good candidate websites to create profile on. The next week will be to make profiles and read the privacy statements. Overall my research should follow the plan of the Syllabus for the due dates so that I am able to complete the project and meet the deliverables needed in this course. If any of the goals are not reached I will perform needed work over the weekend so I am not

slammed for the next week for this project. I plan that everything should run smoothly as long as I stay on track.