

# DS 593: Privacy in Practice

Examining Classical Notions of Privacy and Anonymity

# Logistics

- Join the Piazza and Gradescope if you haven't yet
- First reading reflection due tomorrow at noon
- News
  - Any sources
  - Share on Piazza with the #news tag
  - Starting points: Bluesky, Mastodon, Hacker news, Reddit (r/privacy), Ars Technica etc

# News?



# Texas sues Allstate, alleging insurance company illegally collects drivers' data

Attorney General Ken Paxton is filing the lawsuit under the state's new Data Privacy Security Act.

# Last time

- Historical Lens on Privacy
- Privacy in Modern Contexts

# Today

- Classical Definitions of Privacy

# What Exactly is Privacy?

- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bSbf4o2G4qM-1mcQmNya5pegCN3zTegdfZuMH539cSg/edit?usp=sharing>

“Privacy is a concept in disarray.  
Nobody can articulate what it  
means.” - Solove



# The Right to be Left Alone

- Concept first formalized by Louis Brandeis and Samuel D Warren
- Focus is on an individual's right to seek seclusion
- Motivated in part by the development of photography and sensationalist journalism



# Privacy as Limited Access

- Conceptualization of Privacy as the right to participate in society without unwanted data collection about them
- Privacy is “the condition of being protected by unwanted attention from others – either physical access, personal information, or attention” – Sissela Bok



# Privacy as Information Control

- Charles Fried: “Privacy is not simply an absence of information about us in the minds of others; rather it is the control we have over information about ourselves”
- Argues that privacy is the claim that individuals, groups, and organizations get to dictate the terms of any information communicated about them (when, how, and to what extent)

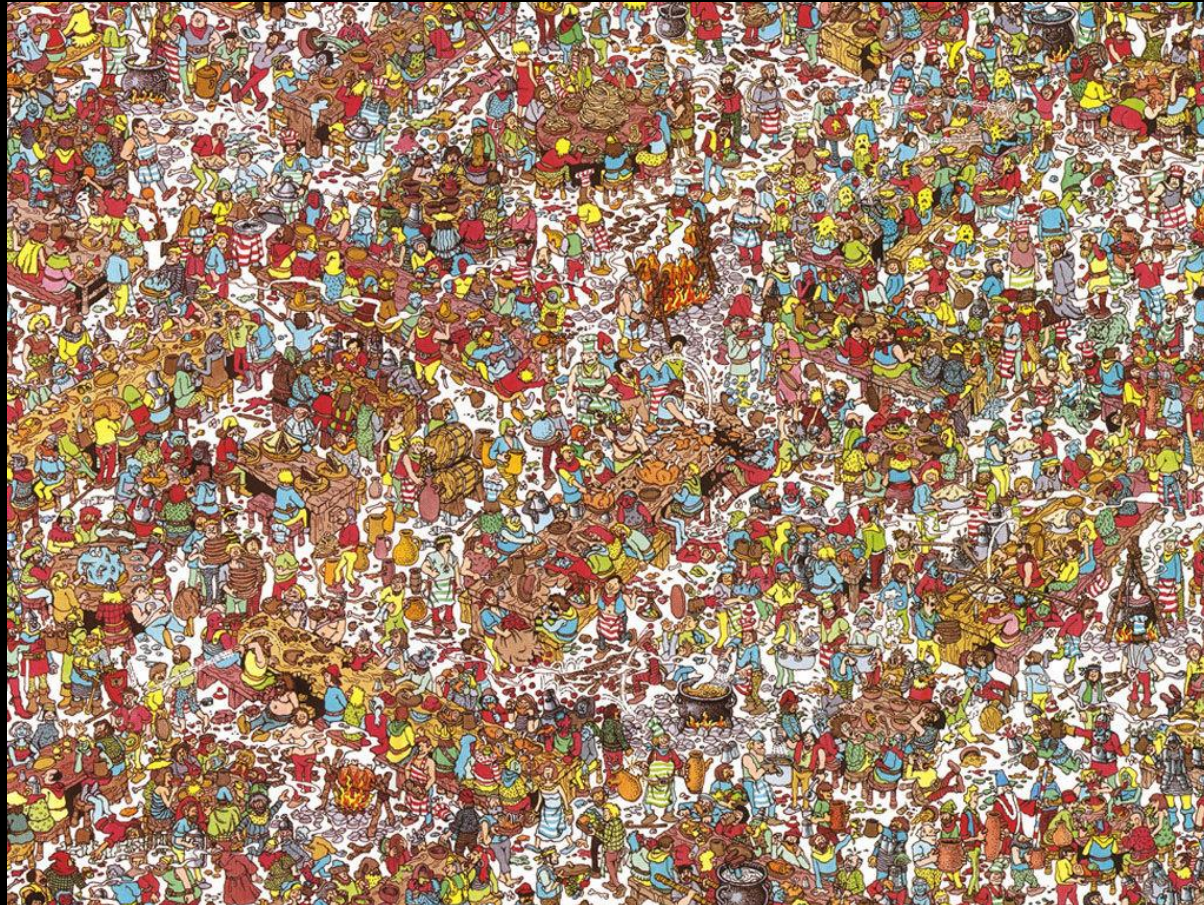
# Privacy as Secrecy

- Privacy is the right for an individual to hide information about themselves that others may use against them
- Often what people think privacy is
- Driver of the “nothing to hide” argument



# Anonymity

- Privacy as the ability to blend into a crowd



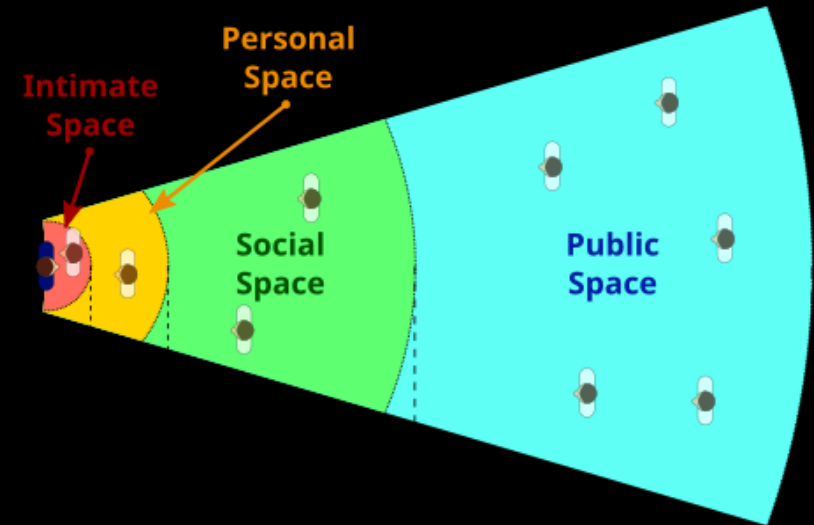
# Alan Westin's 4 States of Privacy

- Solitude
- Intimacy
- Anonymity
- Reserve
  - Physical
  - Behavioral
  - Normative



# Privacy as Personhood

- Defines privacy as the ability to define oneself as an independent entity
- Recognition of individuals as subjects with agency and exclusive right to their physical and mental realities
- These boundaries can be permeable but up to the discretion of the individual



# Public Secrecy

- Bratich, Jack. "Public secrecy and immanent security: A strategic analysis." *Cultural studies* 20.4-5 (2006): 493-511.
- An attempt at an alternative to the right to privacy
- The right to form an “enclave public sphere” or the right to resistance
- Relational rather than individual



# Next time

- How is Privacy defined and understood today?