Case Study Research Assignment

*Internet Privacy*

**Background**

Our smartphones and other devices that connect to the Internet enable us to share our information, such as where we are, what we’ve eaten, who we’re friends with, when we’ve exercised, and what we’re interested in. In essence, we’ve become a very public society. And studies show that for the most part, we don’t care about being so open. But, should we? It’s not just our friends and family that we’re sharing this information with. Governments and companies are listening, too, and we’ve learned that often they can’t be trusted in how they collect and use our data.

In many cases, we agree to privacy terms when we want to use a device or software. We’ve come to accept that there is a tradeoff between being able to use a device or software and giving up some level of privacy. But is this the way it should be? Can we have smart devices that offer us great conveniences while preserving our fundamental right to privacy? Who is ultimately responsible for controlling our privacy: we or the companies that make the devices?

Case research topics to consider

* Internet privacy
* Internet of Things
* Geolocation
* Social media and privacy
* etc.

**Tasks**

1. Each team member will research a device that is connected to the Internet or an app that is used to share information.
2. Each team member is to research the aspect of privacy from the perspective of digital device or software owners who enjoy the social networking feature of the device/software, and from the perspective of business management who has developed the device/software and is collecting and using the owners’ location, usage, and other data.
3. Each Team member should write a summary of the position their team assumes, outlining the pros and cons of their position.

*NOTE: The position you are asked to take may or may not match your own personal beliefs, but your research and use of logic will enable you to represent whichever view is assigned. Together the team will agree on an ethical solution.*

1. Team members should select the most powerful and best-constructed **arguments** and develop a summary **conclusion**.
2. Team members should write up to 2000 words to present their findings on an academic writing style and format (remember your English class?).

**Writing format**

1. Title of Case Study
2. Background
3. Problem
4. Short literature review
5. Findings and Discussions
6. Conclussions and Recommendations