# Instructions

Students need to go and do research on information that is collected on them for any of the services mentioned below. Students are to pick one service they use the most and answer the following questions. Students are expected to conduct independent research and provide their findings. Hint: This information can be found in the company EULA’s, Websites, Privacy Policies.

# Assignment (10 points total)

1. What sensitive information is available about you through Google, Apple, or Amazon, Snapchat, Tik Tok, Instagram, FB, Reddit, etc., tools or application(s) (Including your phones)?

* Enumerate the data (This is the information that any of this companies have about you.)

Apple – First let me say this, my google account is public and reveals nothing about me, except for the linked youtube page. I used to have Google+ but it was shut down, the social media apps that I have used is Discord and LinkedIn. I will focus on Apple

* Apple has my fake name, birthday, address, email, connections to other contacts, and links to my google account. I store needed documents on my icloud account, but because I am cheap, I don’t pay for a service giving me more than 5gb of storage. For that reason, photos are not stored on icloud; also, for privacy reasons. They are encrypted on the phone and are not shared with apple. (No reason, but I don’t have more than 100 photos, when the average person has at least 800). I have been considering adding my debit card because of fraud lately, but I would give it to apple as well and I don’t want to do that. I don’t share app analytics with the app developers or send crash data to apple either – though, I’m sure they do send it themselves without me allowing it –. Because apps are made to be compatible with the OS, the OS also knows what apps I have and how I use them. So they also know how much time I spend on them (not a lot), where I use them (mostly at home, if it’s not maps), and when I use them (during the day). Which reminds me that they also know my IP, my physical location (VPN’s location), my ISP (because of the ISP), and everything related to the hardware of the phone, such as which model and where the phone was made.

2. Where is it stored? (This is where the data resides)

* The iCloud data is now stored on google servers and s3 aws servers (it was stored, originally on apple’s icloud servers, when the service first launched), which means that google now has encrypted files linked to me as well as amazon. Pretty crazy right. The rest that is not in icloud is stored as internal memory within the phone, so that is fine. But most apps now are stored in the cloud, so they are constantly sending and receiving data on my network to update that app’s data (unless, of course, you turn that off, which I did, for that and battery issues).

3. To whom is this data available and under what conditions?

* From the previous question, this means that apple, amazon, and google have my icloud information. Specifically who and what, we don’t know, but we are “assured” that it is encrypted and that they can’t see what it is that they have stored linked to you. Apple’s privacy policy for example, states, that if I share data with them (which they force me to do), then they have the power to view my data, encrypted or not, and do whatever they want with it. That’s a topic for a different class, namely, ENGR 350. However, I don’t know what Google or Amazon or both are doing with my data, but it’s no surprise that they are both tech giants, as we know that they sell user data to other companies to make a profit and shape my interests better to me, ads and the like, which is how other apps also generate a profit, like spotify, discord, all Microsoft apps, financial apps, etc.

4. How long is the data retained and how (or) can you remove it?

* iCloud storage is supposedly kept until 180 days you make your last backup. I’m sure that’s not true, but who can say otherwise. However, if the account is not deactivated, then apple keeps it no matter what. You can remove your data, but nowhere in Apple’s privacy policy or online forums asking this question is this answered: when removed, is the data removed from their data servers or does Apple have to remove it, meaning that they keep the data for a bit more time?

5. What can be done with this data?

* Meanwhile, this data can be kept, stored, sold, edited, tampered, modified, or deleted. We have no control unless you are the one guy sitting at a computer controlling thermal exchanges for serves at apple HQ and other data centers and can remove a hard drive from it and smash to pieces. That is true power hahahahahah