L11: What do Companies Know About You?
IST 110

1. **WHAT KINDS OF INFORMATION ABOUT YOURSELF ARE YOU GIVING AWAY WHEN YOU USE APPS LIKE FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, TWITTER, AND SNAPCHAT?**

Social media applications likely are collecting more than just the obvious – that being personal information and the content contained within whatever you post to the website. They may be tracking your browsing habits across the web on sites where things such as embedded "login with x" features exist. They may also be able to collect geolocation data both on mobile or desktop computers.

2. **WHAT INFORMATION DID YOU FIND IN THE PERSONAL INFORMATION AND PRIVACY SECTION ON GOOGLE?**

Information that seems to be stored with google includes:

- Website/app browsing history
- YouTube watch history
- Gender, age, language
- Relationship status, estimated income, educational status
- Working industry, current employment estimate

3. **DID YOU FIND ANY INFORMATION ABOUT YOURSELF WHEN YOU GOOGLED YOUR NAME? DO YOU HAVE A COMMON NAME THAT GIVES YOU LOTS OF RESULTS OR AN UNCOMMON ONE THAT NETS YOU FEWER?**

I was unable to find much information when searching my name. My first name is quite common but my last one is likely a bit less common which may contribute to it. I also do not my full name on the few social media websites that I use, instead a present an alias and simply my first name.

4. **WHAT TWO SITES DID YOU TRY? DID YOU FIND ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOURSELF? WAS IT CORRECT? IS THERE A WAY TO HAVE THE ENTRY REMOVED FROM THE SITE?**

On zabasearch.com I was able to locate an entry on myself. Included in this report was the following accurate information: relatives, age, location, phone number, email address. The only means I could see that may allow for the removal of this information would be to go to a page on the parent company's website and go through a form to request removal.

However, when searching on spokeo.com, I was unable to find any entries for myself, even when specifying the name of the town I currently reside in.