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Lab7pr2

1. Identity theft is a problem because if a cybercriminal is able to pose themselves as you, they are able to gain access to all of your personal information, records, and data. Something common for identity thieves to do is to steal money and valuable belongings from a person using their stolen credit card numbers, social security number, and other versions of identification. Someone could commit a crime in someone else’s name and leave a trail behind them that could lead law enforcement to someone whose identity was stolen, rather than the actual perpetrator. Stolen purchase data could also be used to determine someone’s daily or weekly routines, allowing a cybercriminal to track their location or use it for malicious purposes in real life such as burglary.
2. While I have not yet posted a picture online of myself at my home address, I have posted pictures of me in my hometown, which could reveal a general area of where I live. On Facebook I have my hometown, where I go to college, and other information about myself that reveals personal information publicly. I do believe it is technically possible to avoid exposing data, but in the connected world of the present it is so hard to entirely avoid having any sort of online profile. Websites such as Linkedin, for example, are vital to have an account and personal information on to stay connected in the professional world. Personally, a great deal of my classwork requires a computer, and even general messages and announcements from the University are sent via email or posted online, rather than handed out in hard copies. Even if one’s account names and passwords are extremely secure, it is nearly always somehow possible for that information to be acquired an experience hacker. Therefore, while it may technically and theoretically be possible for people to live without a data footprint, even if one has secure accounts and information online it is still unreasonable to conclude it is completely possible to avoid exposing personal data online.