

In my ideal digital world, every digital citizen would have the following rights:

1. To have all data and information received or collected, pertaining to them, be safely secured by the company involved in the collection and that it be non transferable to anyone/company without express, documented, consent.
2. To use applications and software without it being be compliant upon the individual providing consent to right number one - since inalienable means the first right cannot be given away.
3. That all applications and software requiring access to files and software be governed by right number one.
4. To access the information/data that has been collected on them from the respective companies.
5. To require a company to stop the collection of their data when an application or program is requested to do so.

All of these rights are directed towards maintaining the security and privacy of an individuals data and are almost intended to act as a set of rules to be followed. With many of the apps/platform/software today being provided for free, the underpinnings of much of the financial structure has necessitated the very sale of the information which I propose to be made private. For this reason and because I believe that “free” has been so engraved into the users psyche, I’m not sure if many of the rights are attainable in the near future without some concerted public outcry for government regulations.

Right #1 Of all of the rights, I do think number 1 is not only attainable but that we are actually practicing it. The only difficulty is that many of us are providing consent, however unknowingly, by signing off on privacy and end user statements. Government and Hospital records are also examples of places where data is required to be held secure and private. We also see companies being fined and being held accountable for data breaks and leaks.

Right # 5 might also be considered as being somewhat in effect as a user can always erase the program and disable most applications of they no longer want to use it.

What might help with public education, and the resulting development of rights, in this area would be a set of rankings like those employed by other industries. There may be 3 levels of privacy related to what types of information is collected about you and another set pertaining to how that information is shared. People would then be able more likely to understand what they are allowing.

Of course, when we discuss practicality, we have to envision the reality that many countries may not adopt such standards and regulations thus enabling many companies to go, “of shore” as they have in other industries. And this is the most “off-shoreable” industry of all...it’s in the clouds.

I think that when teaching the k-12 grade students about their privacy concerns the single most important thing is to have them consider that everything they do digitally could be made completely public. I feel that starting with that basic principle would naturally lead them to the questions of how private is this information, who could possibly gain access to it and what could be done with it. There are of course no assurances that they will get answers to many of their questions easily. However, I think it would lead them to consider, and seek out answers too, the very things about privacy that we’d ideally like to teach in an all-encompassing course.