

**Weekly Assignment – Day 3 – Thursday, September 17, 2020 – Kenneth Chung**

---

We are in the information age. Any person using the internet should be able to safely interact digitally.

The Basic Inalienable Rights of a Digital Citizen (in an ideal world):

1. Equal access – data and connectivity
2. Freedom of Speech – so long as it does not threaten others
3. Intellectual rights for personal creations
4. Privacy of personal information
5. Right to not be tracked and profiled anonymously

If I had to fight for one of these rights, I would fight for **Equal Access** to data and connectivity. We used to say that education is the great equalizer. Now knowledge is readily available online to those seeking it. This is probably the area we can realistically achieve the most progress in the short term. Businesses want more users, so it would make sense to get funding from them to develop more infrastructure to supply more users with devices to have regular connection to the internet.

I'd like to say that we should be able to make more progress toward protecting our private digital information, but the nature of the internet is such that everything travels over public lines. Any data being transmitted can be intercepted. We could make more progress to better encrypt information, but progress is always made to decrypt information all the same. On top of that, our digital footprints are constantly being collected and analyzed – whether it be in a well-intentioned “anonymous” analysis or possibly a more mischievous attempt to acquire personal data on a target. Data is money for all of these companies looking to be more successful. People will track you if they can. Hackers will steal your information if they can.

The single most important thing to teach our young children and students with respect to their digital privacy is that they shouldn't do anything on the internet that they wouldn't be comfortable doing in front of their friends, family, and peers. Things that we do on the internet can all be easily traced back to us – there is no privacy. Cameras constantly take footage of us everywhere we go; Websites use cookies that are able to see our devices, IP addresses, and record everything we click on. Be upright in life. Be upright online.