

Ethnics and Computer Science
September 24, 2020
Hui Yu (Jessica) Du
Assignment: 03-privacy_rights

The inalienable rights of a digital citizen of an ideal world are online privacy and freedom of expression. These rights do not sound alienable, but are they truly attainable? Frequently, our digital footprint are tracked by cookies, flash cookies, and fingerprinting. Whenever we visit a site the first time, we are asked to agree to their terms of service and privacy policies by default or clicking the agree button. We do not have so many options if that specific site is the solely or one of the few sites where the information is available. In the United States, freedom of expression is part of the first amendment. If you are a U.S. resident, the first amendment applies to you.

Thinking about online privacy and freedom of expression, I believe it is more attainable to have online privacy. It is so important to read and understand the privacy policies so that you understand what data are collected and how they are used or analyzed. When possible, choose sites that collect metadata instead of data.

We believe that freedom of expression applies without consequences. On the contrary, students should be aware that the content they post online impacts their lives. Students accepted to Harvard University had their acceptances rescinded due to inappropriate memes these students posted and was brought to the attention of the university administration¹. Students can post content online, but they need to be aware of the consequences of the content and how they impact themselves and others. Getting rescinded from a school is not something they should risk for their post.

¹ <https://www.familyeducation.com/communicating-teens/harvard-rescinds-students-over-posts-how-can-you-keep-your-students-dangerous>