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PRIVACY RIGHTS

In an ideal world, the following would constitute the inalienable rights afforded all digital citizens of all nations on the globe, regardless of social or class status, gender, classified phenotypic expression of genotype (race), or other superficial discriminating trait:

- 1. Digital citizens have the absolute right to be forgotten.*
- 2. Digital citizens have the absolute right to own and control their privacy data.*
- 3. Digital citizens have the absolute right to privacy and to be provided all privacy-related data necessary to make an informed decision as to what data they will share and for how long.*
- 4. Digital citizens have a right to consent to the manner in which the data they generate is collected and/or utilized.*
- 5. Digital citizens have a right to redress from entities, be they corporate, governmental, individual, or other, for the abuse, misuse, fraudulent use, or sharing of their privacy data.*

The reality of the current status of privacy and data in today's world is that none of these inalienable rights are practically attainable to any meaningful degree. Nonetheless, it is my belief that the most attainable of these is the first—the right to be forgotten. In the past fifteen years, nations in the European Union and the sovereign nation of Argentina have all passed some version of “right to be forgotten” or “right to vanish”. These laws maintain that an individual has the right to have certain

information removed from searches, databases, and other directories wherein storage of people's data takes place.

This is an important right to see come to fruition for all digital citizens because it gives everyone tangible control, yet limited, control over what data can remain "on file" in some corners of the world wide web. While this will not fully address the concerns around privacy, use and commercialization of data, etc. it is a significant step in giving individuals more say over what information is publicly available for others to see. For example, if a person did something they are not proud of a decade earlier, they should have the right to request that a search engine or website host remove information that they may have about that incident (alghouth public records data maintained by government institutions should remain) so that that individual can lead a more fulfilling life. That information, while true, may prevent someone from procure a lucrative employment post, or engaging in a potentially beneficial personal relationship, etc.

In light of this, I believe that K - 12 students should be taught how to manage their digital footprints and to research what data sites and other technologies are actively collecting as they navigate the world wide web. For example, they should be taught to read EULAs and decipher their meaning. They should also understand deeply what it means to sign up for a "free account" and whom will own the data they post. Similarly, they should be taught to use sites and technologies like the ones we looked into in our assignments this week to learn how to monitor trackers and reduce the damage of these invasive algorithms. I think it is a tragedy that we assume that just because young people of this generation grew up "around" technology, that they are well versed on how to use it while protecting themselves. This is simply is not the case and will not be for quite a while (if ever).