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Ethics in Computer Science

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**Privacy Policy Review: Repl.it**

Dear parents,

This semester, we will be utilizing the browser-based IDE repl.it for instruction and assignments. As such, students will need to create repl.it accounts in order to access this tool and complete their classwork.

When a student creates a Repl.it account, they must give their name and Midwood email address. This information is used to administer user accounts, to provide customer support, and to send information about products and services, but only when the student opts into those communications. Students who do receive communications may opt out at any time, as well. Repl.it also collects “Log Information”, which consists of IP addresses, browser type, ISP, platform type, device type, operating system, date and time stamp of access, etc. and is primarily used to improve and develop new services. Log Information is never associated with personal information, and any Log Information used for other legitimate business purposes must be aggregated and anonymized, and unable to be tied to a particular user.

This data is stored on Repl.it’s servers in the U.S. and is only accessed in the aforementioned cases. Individuals will only access the data for customer service purposes and at the request of the user. Repl.it claims to implement appropriate technical and organizational measures to protect the information they collect and store, but also concede that no security measures are 100% foolproof. It is unclear how long this data will be stored.

The Terms of Service are very long, but essentially state that the user is responsible for all content they post on Repl.it, and that Repl.it is not responsible for the content posted by other users. There are clear guidelines for what is and isn’t acceptable, which includes prohibition of unlawful, defamatory, harassing, abusive, infringing, obscene, or otherwise objectionable content. Users who break these rules may have their accounts terminated. Repl.it also reserves the right to remove User Content without prior notice at its discretion. Repl.it will provide at least 30 days notice for changes to the Terms of Use Policy.

As a parent, I would be comfortable allowing my child to use this website. All personal information is used only for legitimate purposes, and not sold to other parties. Repl.it as a company relies on income from individual Paid Subscribers and large school accounts, according to the founder and CEO and not selling user data or advertising. The site itself does not run any ads, and email addresses are only used for direct communication when requested.