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Ethics

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In your ideal world, what are the inalienable rights of a digital citizen?

In the name of swift progress, many things go unconsidered in the development of new technologies. There was no Congressional Committee to determine what should and shouldn't be done with a database of billions of photos, biometric data, IP addresses, hardware, locations, and any of the other countless things that can be found about you or ripped away from you unknowingly on the internet, before these databases, all of a sudden, existed, and private companies were doing anything they desired with them that wasn't expressly forbidden. Better to ask forgiveness than permission is the old adage that many companies operate under when it comes to the Wild West that is online personal data protection. Many things, at this point, can not be undone, but if we were able to hit a reset button on the development of social media, image search engines, ISP data, browser cookies, and the myriad other ways we are constantly tracked, identified, and stored online, these are the things that I believe should have been considered:

1. A person should have total control of what data they are giving to any private company on the internet. If this means they have to click Enable Cookies, or Enable Sharing Laptop Battery Status, so be it. If the company can not convince the user why these things are necessary, they should have the right to opt out of using it before this data is taken from them.
2. No data should be saved or stored beyond its usefulness to the service rendered. I understand that something like an IP Address may be necessary to send data back and forth, but after that transaction is over, a person has a right for their data to be forgotten and not stored for an indefinite amount of time.
3. A person should have the right to correct or remove personal data about themselves from any company or search engine. Nobody is prepared to have something they don't want known about themselves to be publicly available in perpetuity, and they shouldn't have to be stigmatized for life as a result.

- **In practicality, which of these do you think are most attainable?**

Number 3 is already a law in the European Union and Argentina, called the right to be forgotten. This conflicts heavily with the First Amendment in the United States, and the right to publish this public information

about others prevents attempts to censor it. That being said, many aspects of what constitutes free speech are being called into question in America today, and many states are making their own laws governing what is free speech and what is harassment.

- **What is the single most important thing to teach K-12 students with respect to their privacy concerns?**

The single most important thing to teach K-12 students is to value their personal information and to care about protecting it. If students don't care about their privacy, then knowing how to protect it won't make them actually do it. Students need to understand the permanency of posting images and videos of themselves on the internet, they need to understand what is done with the personal data that is collected from them, and they need to understand what information is dangerous to share, and why. Once the students understand the why, the what will come easy.