

## Privacy Policies of AP Computer Science Principles Curricula: BJC and UTeach

There is a stark contrast between the privacy policies of College Board-approved AP Computer Science Principles curriculum providers Beauty and Joy of Computing (BJC - University of California at Berkeley) and UTeach (University of Texas). The BJC curriculum is made available publicly on their website at no cost to the user. BJC's privacy policy is aligned with what one may hope for from a non-profit organization, which is to say that there is very little data collection, and it is restricted in clear ways. On the other hand, UTeach's privacy policy is more aligned with what one may expect from a commercial organization with a clear profit motive. UTeach makes extensive use of tracking and shares information with third parties with very few restrictions or protections for the user.

BJC states at the outset that they are a nonprofit, educational institution, and it overall comes across as a benevolent force that is respectful of the user's privacy: *"Although, as a nonprofit educational institution, we are technically exempt from the United States Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), we are voluntarily following its rules about data collection from children under 13. This policy also conforms to the European Union General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which restricts data collection from children under 16. We apply these protection policies to all users, wherever located, so 16 is our cutoff age for parental notification"* (BJC Privacy Policy). BJC is voluntarily complying with a requirement that does not even apply to them.

It is not as if BJC collects no data. They do collect email addresses and birth month and year for those users who opt to store their programs in the cloud for the purpose of verifying age so that they can give guardians the chance to remove content as desired. They also explain, *"Like many other web sites, we use Google Analytics to collect statistical information about how our site is used. We get only general statistical information from Google Analytics, not personally identifiable information. However, if you have ever used other Google services, then Google knows who you are. We have no control over their use of information; see [Google's privacy policy](#) for more information"* (BJC Privacy Policy). This is the worst that it gets with BJC.

UTeach is very different in that they collect much more and make it available to multiple third parties for no clear reason other than making a profit. UTeach had a general privacy statement about their website, but given that their content is now delivered entirely through their Codio platform starting in fall 2021. Accordingly, it was necessary to review Codio's privacy policy with the UTeach platform.

One difference seen right away is the type of data collected. According to Codio through UTeach, *"you may be required to provide Codio with certain personal information, which may include (but is not limited to) personal information such as your name, birth date and email address, and, in some cases, payment information such as credit card numbers and billing information"* (Codio Privacy Policy). Given that BJC does not charge for its services, it does not collect payment information of any kind. Perhaps even more invasive is the collection of keystroke data! Yes - keystroke data, by an education platform! *"Codio also collects and records usage data such as*

*keystroke data for academic research purposes and for the purpose of providing the Platform, where such keystroke data enables Codio to create innovations that help teachers teach more effectively and help students stay engaged and reach learning outcomes” (Codio Privacy Policy).* In addition, web beacons and cookies may be utilized, and any attempt to disable cookies may prevent users from being able to make use of the features on the stie. Furthermore, IP addresses are recorded.

There is also the matter of what is done with these data. Codio states, *“By submitting, posting or displaying Content on or through the Platform, you grant us a worldwide, perpetual, irrevocable, non-exclusive, royalty-free licence (with the right to sublicense) to use, host, store, copy, reproduce, process, adapt, modify, publish, transmit, create derivative works, communicate, display, and/or distribute such Content in any and all media or distribution methods (now known or later developed) as part of providing the Platform” (Codio Privacy Policy).*