

Week 02 Privacy  
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23andME

<https://www.23andme.com/>

<https://www.23andme.com/about/privacy/>

<https://www.23andme.com/gdpr/>

GEDmatch

<https://www.gedmatch.com/>

<https://www.gedmatch.com/terms-of-service-privacy-policy>

23andMe is a DNA testing that offers to provide insights in health and ancestry based on your DNA. The company offers to search your DNA for markers for some diseases such as Parkinson's and many different types of cancer. You can also allow your DNA to be used for ancestry and genealogy.

GEDmatch will take the result of your DNA analysis and upload them online to use in an ancestry and genealogy search. Unlike 23andMe, GEDmatch doesn't offer to provide health and disease insights.

The main data is your DNA profile. These websites have been in the news recently, especially GEDmatch where DNA profiles have been uploaded and matched to help solve long cold cases. Also, a lot of families are learning about their ancestry that have been surprising and unexpected with many family secrets spilling out in the open.

Even though you are sharing your DNA profile, it can be linked to you or your family without you agreeing to it. Sometimes people agree to upload data for their specific purpose but allowing their DNA to be allowed to be used by someone else may not be as comfortable for people to allow their data to be used.

23andMe states they used aggregated data but everyone knows even a small amount of known data can still expose someone who wants to remain anonymous.

Another issue is the financial aspect of the service. You are providing your information, but the service is making money off of your data. Customers do not get payments each time their data is used. They sell the service as helping the greater good.

Additional Sources:

<https://www.darkreading.com/edge/theedge/data-privacy-is-in-23andme-csos-dna/b/d-id/1341407>

<https://techcrunch.com/2020/07/22/gedmatch-investigating-dna-profile-law-enforcement/>

<https://www.makeuseof.com/how-the-government-spies-on-you-collected-data/>