Now examine [this discussion of data Google retains](https://www.cnbc.com/2017/11/20/what-does-google-know-about-me.html). As the article says: "Google promises that it doesn't sell your data", just ad placement based on your data. You may or may not trust this assertion, but that is another question. Google is also arguably an advertising platform rather than a search platform. Also remember: like Facebook, Google is an international business.

In no more than 250 words, reply to the following:

Select one category of data from the Google list which you think might be dangerous for Google to retain if they might be compelled by legitimate court order to turn the data over to an authoritarian regime. Discuss why this might be dangerous and what steps should be taken to reduce the danger.

Type your response in the text field and submit it to the dropbox.

I believe the obvious answer would be if Google were forced to turn over my Google Activity, since that captures absolutely everything I do on Google. However, certain authoritarian countries already limit access to some sites and services, so I don’t think much of my activity would catch them off guard.

However, it would make me nervous if Google were forced to turn over my Ads Personalization, because that involves a level of machine learning. This algorithm could draw conclusions I may not want an authoritarian regime to know about me, based on my browsing history. As far as I can imagine, Google’s algorithms are universal, i.e. not unique to a specific country or region. Therefore, if I am searching for (legal in an authoritarian region) websites which are like (illegal/distasteful in the same region) websites a person in a more moderate country views, and I get grouped with them, conclusions can be drawn about me that I may not be comfortable with. At the governmental level, they would not have the granularity to know whether my activity was acceptable or not and could simply lump me in with dissenters.