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Database 2

LP1 – DB Ethics

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Privacy is an issue that evokes many different opinions, but in my opinion, should be separated into three areas: general population, business and government. When considering information to be public or private with respect to the general population, I think it is cut and dry. If the data contains information about the identity of the person and they did not give permission for the information to be shared, then it is private. The general population cannot be trusted to respect other's beliefs and opinions. To validate that statement all you need to do is turn on the news or read comments on Facebook posts, YouTube videos or blogs. People feel they have the right to decide how another person should live, feel, and act, and that they should be able to impose their beliefs on another. Business' should be allowed to collect private information in certain cases but I also feel this issue is pretty cut and dry. General browsing of a website should be private and not tracked. A person creating a login to a website, for any reason, is giving permission for their information to be stored, but later access to that information should be restricted. General information could be used and shared if the identity of the person stays anonymous. The government I feel should be allowed to collect data, but should not have a blanket rule that allows them to use the data however they choose. I also think that numerous systems need to be in place to ensure that the data collected is not abused and mishandled.

Protecting personal privacy in my mind means you need safeguards in place to handle any situation. Social security information, credit card info, etc., should be protected by several security checks: password protected access to the database itself, user permissions to restrict access to certain areas, user access logs, and in some cases a second login. The database should be kept on a separate server with restricted access and the data should be encrypted. The system should also be continuously updated and tested for vulnerability.