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History of Science and Technology

18 April 2018

Reflection 6

With the investigation into the data breach of Facebook, people are starting to not trust Facebook anymore. As someone who was mildly affected by it, I myself have started to wonder if I should continue to trust Facebook, or any other social media outlet, with my personal information. I received a notification saying that because a Facebook friend’s information was compromised in the data breach, some of my non-critical information was also compromised. We as a society give a lot of trust to these companies, but do we trust them too much?

Facebook, as well as other social media outlets, is so successful because it is a way for people to connect with their friends and family, no matter where they are in the world. It helped our society become more connected than ever before. We trust them to be secure; we trust them to keep our private information private. When something like this data leak happens, it is no surprise that we become weary of its abilities to keep information private. Cambridge Analytica was given the information of around 50 million users, and Facebook has estimated that they had the ability to get the profile information of around 37 million more people, based on the friend history of those 50 million people. All in all, that is nearly half of Facebook’s user base. How can we continue to trust a platform that cannot keep nearly half of their users information private?

Many lawmakers from the entire political spectrum believe that it may be time to regulate Facebook. During his testimony, Mark Zuckerberg even took responsibility for this breach, saying they have a “basic responsibility to protect people’s data.” He acknowledged that it was a huge breach in trust, and that they did not handle the situation correctly. Facebook lost a lot of respect and trust in this situation, and it never should have occurred in the first place. I think the question now is whether people will be able to trust Facebook again in the future, and if this going to change how people see social media in general.

Sources

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