

Assignment 06 – Privacy and Ethics in Online Social Networks

Privacy and ethics are issues everywhere online, although Facebook seems to be more in the news than many other sites. The Cambridge Analytic story was big news worldwide. But not as many people know the story of Facebook's mood manipulation experiment. And there was less hype surrounding Facebook's apparent legal maneuvering to limit the reach of the GDPR for its non-European users.

Assignment:

PART I:

Read the document: FB_Secret_Mood_Manipulation.pdf which is posted on the Canvas site. Write a 200-word summary of the events outlined in the article.

Write a 300-word essay on ethics in online social networks. Do you think the Facebook mood experiment was ethical? Are any types of experiments or studies that are done without the subjects' knowledge or consent ethical? What types of studies or experiments might you find reasonable or useful, if any? This happened in 2012; do you think it could happen again today? Why or why not? You may also include your insights into the GDPR issue, if you wish.

PART II

Read the article: Is_It_Time_to_Delete_TikTok.pdf, which is posted on the Canvas site. In it, the author answers 7 questions about the safety and advisability of using TikTok. Several of these questions could also be of concern to users of any online social network.

Tasks:

1. For each of the 7 questions:
 - a. copy the question.
 - b. summarize the author's answer in a sentence or two.
 - c. write a few sentences giving your thoughts on that issue.
2. Write a short (100 word minimum) paragraph describing your feelings on the Tik Tok privacy/security concerns and how the issues compare to other social networks.

Written Assignments: Written work should be submitted in .pdf or Word format, in a document ***labeled with your last name***, eg: Dugas_HW3.pdf. You may include legible hand-drawn diagrams in your document, but ***all other text must be typed***.

All written work must use complete sentences and proper grammar. Written work will be screened for plagiarism; plagiarism will result in a zero grade and possible reporting to the administration. Be sure you understand plagiarism and reference citation. Quoted material will not be counted toward word count requirements. If you need help with writing, Stevens has a Writing and Communications Center that – despite its misleading URL – is available for both undergraduate and graduate students: [The WCC site is also reachable through MyStevens]

<https://www.stevens.edu/academics/undergraduate-studies/writing-communications-center>.