Online privacy is a lie

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With the exponential growth of technology, it's no surprise that the internet has taken over our lives. It knows more about us than we do. The sickening part being that a lot of this information is what we never agreed to be made public. Corporations spying on us is a widely known fact. But that's not all, scams, viruses and even hacks are just a few bits of a wide array of danger. And so, we stop, and we think, are we helpless here? How is this allowed? As questions flood our mind we think of the solutions.

One being to avoid using the internet completely, but is that even a solution? With the entire world revolving around the internet, stepping away would inevitably mean losing everything. And even so, you're never truly safe as people close to you will still pose a threat with their own devices. Various organizations have already confessed to selling user data. Facebook was taken to court over this issue and nothing came of it. Even if you do win the fight against one, there's thousands of other companies doing the exact same thing. And these are the things that the companies were in on... But what about the times when they weren't. For instance, companies like dell have suffered an issue where the webcams on their laptops were being hacked and they could do nothing to stop it. Innocent people suffering for the mistakes of these massive corporations where live webcam footage would be streamed onto illegal websites for free or paid viewing. The solution? Dell asks the clients to cover their webcams with tape. A widespread technological fault is dealt with by suggesting us to handle it ourselves. If the companies that we put our trust in can't fix these problems then is the promised safety nothing but a myth?

The problems don't end there as this data could have far worse implications. These being from the dark web. The most dangerous part of the internet loaded with everything illegal. Even if you don’t visit it, the dark web has every detail on every person ever, and with the practices followed there , being cautious would go without saying. You could literally be the target of a murder. Your data could be sold to anyone with bad intentions against you. Anything and everything could be used against you for blackmail, this is just a taste of the poison that is the dark web.

And so with all the problems we face, is there a way to get that information back? Simply put, the answer is no. However, one can avoid further data being vulnerable by following certain practices and taking precautions. While simple, these solutions aren't as commonly known as they should be, giving way to more scams happening in the long run. For starters, lets follow Dell. The practice of covering your microphone and webcam with tape isn't something new, in fact the owner of Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg even practices this. And it doesn't have to be tape, as webcam covers are sold commonly. From thereon we move to being cautious. Recognizing scams is a must know skill in this era. Common ones being spam email, avoid that at all costs unless it's from a known sender. Avoid clicking sketchy links that may redirect you to numerous websites. To browse the internet use anonymous search engines. VPNs are widely known these days and are ever so important as they retrace your location to a place you've never been. Antivirus softwares, firewalls although sound complicated are really effective in doing the lookout work for you. You don’t need a degree in computer science to implement these practices, all you need is awareness.

By now i hope to have convinced a lot of you. And for those that are still unsure, I'd like to conclude this presentation with a scenario. Imagine this, you find out you have a stalker that tracks every single move, takes pictures of you, records your voice, what you say to others, knows where you live, who your family is, what you eat etc. Knowing this you choose to keep the doors of your house open, you choose to let every stranger in, you choose not to hire security. That’s what not taking these precautions can be like. And so, I urge you, these companies are not your friends and if we can't fight their actions, the least we can do is take precautions, stay smart, stay safe. Thankyou.

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