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Social Issues in Computing Term Paper Abstract

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The Ethics of Data Sharing vs Privacy Abstract

There have been lots of controversies involving privacy as of late. It seems that Facebook has surpassed Google as the company most likely to violate your privacy, with the company changing its users' privacy settings almost every time it introduces a new feature. Mobile apps for both iPhone and Android have scraped personal information off of their users phones and sent them back to their parent companies, often without properly informing the users on what was being sent and why, much less offering them a chance to opt out. Last, but not least, Microsoft has launched an ad campaign to capitalize on all these violations of privacy, only to be accused of engaging in the same kinds of violations that it scolds its competitors for doing.

With all this controversy over privacy on the Internet, it no surprise privacy has become a buzzword as of late. In this paper, I will look at data privacy on the Internet. This paper will give a multi-faceted view on privacy. First, I will examine the legal side of the issue, discussing what information companies can and cannot collect from whom, and how various government agencies have meddled in privacy. Second, I will try to present an idealistic view of how, in my opinion, things should be as it relates to privacy. Last, I will reconcile that with the status quo, and see if there is anything we can do to improve our privacy. All this will be backed up with articles documenting the events I discuss in my paper.

Works Cited

{Bibliography}