

Theodore Kim
CS-GY 6813 – Information Security and Privacy
Homework 1, Part 4

I requested information from the websites / online services that I used the most: **LinkedIn**, **Quora**, and **Google**.

LinkedIn is a professional networking website, in which individuals can post an online resume and connect with individuals in their network and individuals within others' networks. In order to make my GDPR request, I first Googled "LinkedIn GDPR." The second hit, *privacy.linkedin.com/gdpr*, outlined the steps that the company has taken to guarantee its compliance to the EU's GDPR. After reading through it, I found a link to *privacy.linkedin.com/faq*. I then scrolled down to the section "Your Personal Data & Your Choices," then followed *that* link to my account settings page (<https://linkedin.com/psettings/>). On that page, under the Privacy tab, I selected the **Download your data** option and requested my data. I received an email with a link to my information download three business days later. I was surprised that LinkedIn had a record of the saved phone numbers in my phone's contacts app (from when I allowed their mobile app access to my contacts). Furthermore, they had a log of locations where I accessed their app. The rest of the data was just browsing history and a record of my profiles.

Quora is an online questions and answers forum that I frequent often for entertainment. Requesting my data from Quora was pretty easy. I went to the Contact Us page in Quora (quora.com/contact) and filled out their contact form under the "General Feedback" option. I entered my email and indicated that I was making a GDPR request. They responded within twenty minutes saying that I should expect to get an email with their collected information within 72 hours. I received an email with an attached .zip two business days later. They had not collected as much data as the other companies. The extent of their information was my account's viewing history (i.e. what questions/answer that I viewed) and my IP address / location when accessing their website.

I utilize numerous Google services everyday like Android, to YouTube, and Gmail. In order to request my information from Google, I went to their data website: <http://takeout.google.com/settings/takeout>. I requested that I receive all of my information as a .zip archive. I received an email an hour later with links to all of my information. There were a total of 14 archives each 2GB+ in size. I did not look through all of the archives as I did not have the space nor time, but I did explore the first seven, which contained my browsing history through various Google services, like YouTube and Google Play Store. Something I was very surprised to see was that they saved all of the "autofill" information from Google Chrome including addresses, name, as well as email and passwords! Furthermore, they have a history of my locations from my Google Maps App and all my call logs made using my Android phone.

Between these companies, there was a lot of variation with the amount of data they have collected. Google obviously had the most information, but also because they are the only internet service that I regularly use. It seems to me that, because Google primarily makes money off of advertisements, they would also make sure to track as much about me as possible to create targeted advertising.

One thing that is the most troubling was the Google Maps location history, so I looked more into that and discovered that there is a settings in Google Maps that controls location tracking. I disabled the "Timeline" feature, which supposedly prevents Google from collecting my locations. I do not think I can stop using Google Maps, but I can disable location services on my phone when I am not actively using it.