

## Value Sensitive Design Assignment #1

**Due Date:** submit w/ Final Project

Write the privacy policy for the website you are designing. Your aim is to be sensitive to all the values that are at play, and make appropriate tradeoffs between them. There are two parts to this assignment:

- Write the privacy policy itself (length is somewhat flexible, but it must be readable by an average person in 5 minutes or less).
- Complete a worksheet (see attached) explaining why you wrote your privacy policy as you did.

Be realistic about what data you're going to collect, and what you're going to do with it. At a minimum, you're presumably going to want some data to improve your website via analytics, so don't just go with a utopian 'we won't collect any of your data' approach. Your interests matter too (e.g. producing a good website that will make money), and collecting data can be an important part of this. What we're looking for is a reasonable and intelligible privacy policy that, through being sensitive to all the values that are at stake, strikes an appropriate balance between collecting useful data, and respecting user privacy.

## Privacy Policy Justification Worksheet

1. Briefly describe the website you are building (its purpose/functionality/etc.)

This website will allow users to search for food items and to bookmark and review them. Other users will be able to see the most liked foods and their reviews for educational purposes.

2. Identify the stakeholders (direct and indirect) whose interests are relevant to your website.

Stakeholders include users of the site and Google Firebase for storing those user accounts in a database.

3. What data will you have access to, and what might this data reveal about its subjects?

When users create an account, they provide their email, a password, and their role (a foodie or a nutritionist). Those emails and roles, but not passwords nor their hashes, will be accessible to me. Password hashes may be available to Google Firebase. Knowing a user's role as a foodie or as a nutritionist might hint at their interests or professions. Food search queries are not stored by this website, but anonymous search queries *may* be logged by the USDA.

4. What values are relevant to your website and its privacy policy? (Note that the relevant values will depend in part on the kind of website you are building).

We value user privacy and will not use their email for anything other than account authentication. Users knowing fully about how their data is being used is very important, as well as allowing them access to much of the website, barring bookmarking, without authenticating or providing any information whatsoever.

5. What counts as “success” for the website you are building?

“Success” is defined as receiving a good grade on this project, which will only have to be used by me, the professor, and/or TAs.

6. Describe how you took the relevant values into account in writing your privacy policy (e.g. what decisions and tradeoffs were made, and why).

I made sure to inform the user of what might happen to *any* data that they input, and be clear that, besides creating a user account and bookmarking/reviewing foods, they can still get to use most of the rest of the website. I had to give up collecting more information about them which might help to advertise to them in the future, in order to require the least amount of information from them for authentication purposes.