

Teacher's Sheet - Motivation and Instructions

What is our goal?

This website is a product of our one-year study project within the Data Ethics Outreach Lab (DEOL) at the Institute of Cognitive Science, University of Osnabrück. We have created this website to introduce students to the relationship between PayPal and Data Privacy. Our aim is to inform current and future users of PayPal about data collection and how data is handled in ways users might not know or want. Even if students might not use PayPal (yet), the introduced topics are broad and transfer to other platforms and online services as well.

We collected information about PayPal's business plan, their legal obligations according to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and strategies that are used to attract customers. We have put this information together and visualized it in a way to make it interesting and fun to interact with.

How to use:

This content can be used for a school lecture on Data Ethics, Privacy and Big Data and aims to serve as an introduction to the world of Data Privacy, which is extremely relevant in today's world.

The idea is that students can navigate through the website independently, possibly also in groups of 2, in about 30 minutes. We provide several questions in-between to make it more interactive, give definitions of several terms and provide examples to make the information more comprehensible. For more information or preparation, have a look at the supplementary material.

As part of the overarching project, other groups have created school lessons on various Data Ethics topics, with which our website can be used and combined as well. Information about other projects can be found here: <https://www.dataethics-cons.uni-osnabrueck.de/startseite.html>

Supplementary material:

1. As a supplement to the website, we have created a large research dossier with more detailed information on the topics for reference: <https://underthemicroscopeen.github.io/#/12/16>
2. We also summarized the dossier and the website on a fact sheet that contains the main points we want to communicate: <https://underthemicroscopeen.github.io/#/12/17>

Follow-up Discussion Questions:

For a possible class discussion after the students have worked through the website independently, the following questions might be interesting to discuss:

- What stuck with you the most after going through the material?
- After learning about what PayPal could possibly do with your data, how do you feel about this? Would have ever thought that sharing your personal data could have this much influence?
- Can you think of other companies/ businesses/ platforms that might be functioning in a similar way? (e.g., Spotify playlists, YouTube, TikTok, Instagram reels)
- Can you think of any situation where you might have been treated unfairly by an AI-based decision? Or can you think of any situation you could possibly encounter in the future where you might be affected negatively by AI-based decisions?
- What should big companies do in your opinion with regards to data aggregation to prevent harmful consequences and discrimination for individuals and society?
- After learning what impacts data aggregation can have, do you think you are going to act differently? Why/why not?