

## Calendar and Readings (July 13)

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### Lecture 1

For much of this lecture, I'm going to show excerpts from a documentary called *HATE.COM: Extremists on the Internet*, which was aired as an HBO special in 2000—which is of course a lifetime ago in Internet time. Although parts of the documentary are clearly dated, it nonetheless raises important questions about the limits of free expression in cyberspace. After the film, there will be time to talk about your reactions, both to the dangers described in the documentary and on the similar issues raised by the Nuremberg Files case.

### Lecture 2

While I've talked a little bit about privacy in previous lectures, I'd like to focus an entire lecture on privacy, as I expect privacy will be one of the major topics of ethics that you'll need to be addressing in your technical careers over the next decade.

### Reaction paper assignment

I asked you to read United States Supreme Court Justices Warren and Brandeis' article "The Right to Privacy." When it was written (in 1890), the justices were considering an individual's right to privacy given the potential impact of the day's technological innovation, the photograph. I'd like you to write a reaction paper to some of the following questions: How relevant is their article to today's technological innovations? How might today's expected norms for privacy be similar to and/or different from what they were expecting? How might Warren and Brandeis' article be defended and attacked from a utilitarian and/or deontological perspective?

I keep random lists of quotes that I find interesting. Some of the privacy-related quotes I have kept include:

*"Just because something is publicly accessible does not mean that people want it to be publicized."*  
- danah boyd

*"Privacy is not something that I'm merely entitled to, it's an absolute prerequisite."*  
- Marlon Brando

*"The right to be let alone is indeed the beginning of all freedom."*  
- William O. Douglas

*"They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."*  
- Benjamin Franklin

*“The way things are supposed to work is that we're supposed to know virtually everything about what [the government does]: that's why they're called public servants. They're supposed to know virtually nothing about what we do: that's why we're called private individuals.”*

- Glenn Greenwald

*“When a private talk over a bottle of wine is broadcast on the radio, what can it mean but that the world is turning into a concentration camp?”*

- Milan Kundera

*“All human beings have three lives: public, private, and secret.”*

- Gabriel García Márquez

*"You already have zero privacy. Get over it."*

- Scott G. McNealy

*“For if we are observed in all matters, we are constantly under threat of correction, judgment, criticism, even plagiarism of our own uniqueness. We become children, fettered under watchful eyes, constantly fearful that — either now or in the uncertain future — patterns we leave behind will be brought back to implicate us, by whatever authority has now become focused upon our once-private and innocent acts. We lose our individuality, because everything we do is observable and recordable.”*

- Bruce Schneier

How might one or more of these individuals try to relate Warren and Brandeis' view of a right to privacy with the current status of privacy? Alternatively, if you have your own favorite privacy quotes you'd be willing to share, please do. And consider how the author of your quote would consider the current state of privacy.