**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.)

The website I am building is a recommendations website. Users can post interesting locations, assign a category to it, and then view the interesting locations near them on a map. Then, other users can comment on these locations and lastly, administrators can delete any content that is not appropriate for the site, or duplicates.

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

The first and primary stakeholder for this website is the users. They would like their information to be kept private, but also want the website to work as well as possible for them and recommend places they would like to visit.   
The second stakeholder for this website is business owners. Business owners may also be users, and they would like their businesses represented accurately and recommended to people looking for their services.

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

I will have access to users’ location, and birthdays. This data could reveal the users’ location, and if I harvested the data, could probably build a heatmap to figure out where they lived and worked, and which businesses they visited the most frequently.

1. 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).

My website would like to accurately recommend locations to users, while also keeping user’s personal information as private as possible. Peoples’ locations are very sensitive data and keeping them secure is very important.

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

For the website I’m building, success counts as users getting recommended places they would enjoy, and being able to see locations near their location, as well as providing feedback and using other users’ feedback to make their decisions about where to visit.

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

In writing my privacy policy I made sure to let users know why certain pieces of information were being collected. Location data is critical to the service provided by the Spotfinder, so it would be necessary to gather location data. Name is crucial as it provides context and a user-friendly handle for referring to commentors.