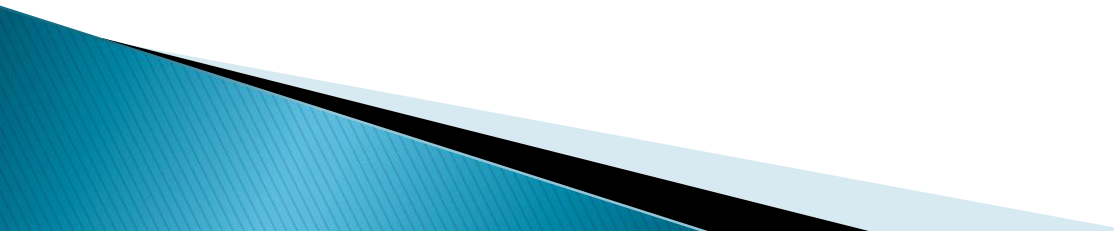


Privacy and Information

Information Security Class
Falcon High School
Mr. Russell

Introduction

- ▶ After the fall of the Berlin Wall, it was found that the East German Government had used thousands of spies and informers to spy on its citizens. Friends, neighbors, coworkers and family members give enough information to accumulate 125 million miles of shelf space. Computers were not used at all.
 - ▶ Computers are not needed at all to invade privacy, but with its omnibus presence, the ability to abuse the privacy of citizens has risen to an exponential number.
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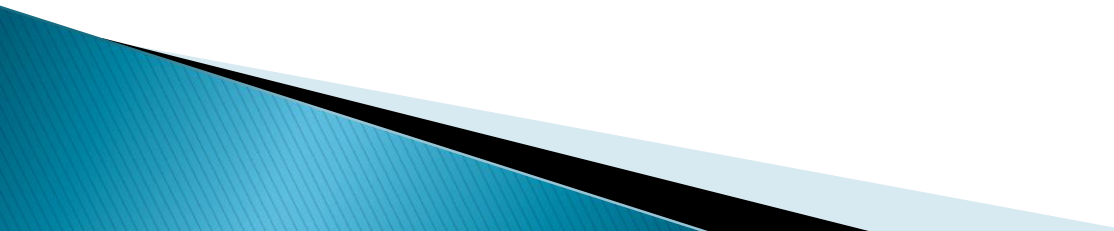
Government Files

- ▶ Big Brother is Watching You
 - In the novel “1984” by George Orwell, the government virtually watched everyone all the time. There was little crime but no freedom. Today federal government agencies maintain over 2000 databases containing personal information. Many systems are accessible by computer networks. Because of the scope activities, the use and misuse of government databases pose serious threats to the liberty and personal privacy of all American Citizens.

Government Files

- ▶ The IRS & Law Enforcement Agencies
 - The IRS scans vehicle registration records, searches databases of suspicious cash transactions, and searches professional license records. Computer matching and database searching have helped the IRS catch people who have cheated them.

Government Files

- ▶ FBI National Crime Information Center (NCIC)
 - Established in 1967 to help law agencies share information
 - Over 30 million records, 20 million criminal histories. Millions of transactions a day
 - FBI secretly tracked movement of people in '67
 - Access and data entry are easy and many times inaccurate.
 - Congress authorized millions to expand NCIC and link to more data bases.
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Government Files

▶ Other Law Enforcement Examples

- Database of people of purchased certain prescription medicine
- Proctor and Gamble convinced police to search records of hundreds of thousands of employees
- Bell Atlantic gave away over 22,000 telephone records to law enforcement without notifying the customer
- Libraries provided list of people who checked out certain materials or list of materials

Government Files

▶ US Census

- The Constitution authorizes and requires the government to count US citizens every ten years. It also requires information about race, national origin, housing and relationship with the people they live with. This information is useful to marketers, economist, sociologist and government agencies. Computer matching makes it relatively easy to combine data with other databases to identify specific people and families.

Government Files

- ▶ Social Security Number
 - Issued in 1936 for Social Security Program
 - Currently used for identification of many services
 - The potential for fraud and abuse is great
 - The number is never treated with appropriate security
 - Some states use SSN as drivers license numbers
 - Criminals have no trouble producing fake IDs
 - Numbers are not unique

Government Files

- ▶ National ID Cards – *a good idea?*
 - Would contain SSN, name, photo, health, tax, employment, criminal records and other data.
 - Will be used to interact with government agencies
 - You will only need one card; it takes the place of several.
 - Some think it is a profound threat to freedom and compare it to Nazi Germany and the apartheid system in South Africa.

Government Files

▶ Protecting Information

- The Privacy Act of 1974 regulates the use the federal government's use of personal data. It has, to quote on expert, "many loopholes, weak enforcement and only sporadic oversight." government agencies simply do not comply with its provisions. NCIC employees sold information to private investigators, a law enforcement person used it to track and kill his girlfriend, IRS workers have sold information to private firms for profit.

Consumer Information

- ▶ Databases & Marketing & Data Mining
 - Everything you buy is monitored and stored...somewhere. This information is collected, compiled, analyzed and used by several corporations to find ways to make money, i.e., finding new customers, advertise to present customers, and generating consumer profiles. This is data mining. The information comes from everywhere; purchases, rebate forms, surveys, government records, charity donations, gun shows, club memberships, etc.

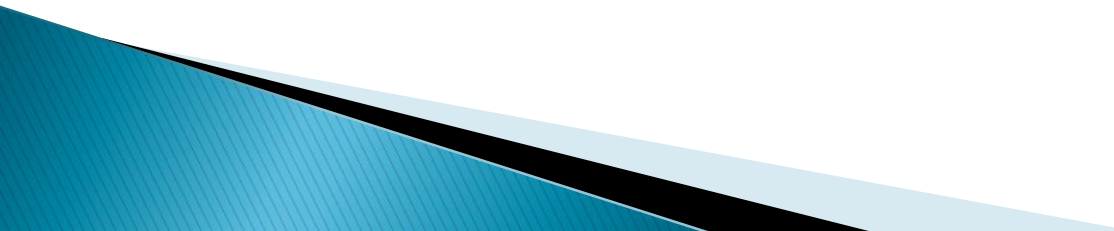
Consumer Information

- ▶ A Dilemma: We want information about others, but we don't want others to have information about us.
 - Like "*Freedom of Speech*" we cannot have it both ways. We can't deny others the right of speech because it offends us without having our own speech denied when we offend someone else.

Consumer Information

- ▶ Consumer Data at Risk
 - Government agencies are increasing their access to consumer databases. Conversely, marketers make extensive use of many government databases that are open to the public. Records that are supposed to be protected sometimes find their way into marketing databases. Example: Voter records, though prohibited are used by political and other organizations.

Consumer Information

- ▶ *Invisible Information Gathering* – When you are not informed that information is being collected or how it will be used and you have no opportunity to consent or withhold consent
 - ▶ *Secondary Use* – The use of information for a purpose other than what it was collected for.
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Consumer Information

- ▶ Facebook – Opt Out or Opt In
 - Facebook often introduce services to its customers that gives them the option to opt-out if they do not want it. As a result, many people are left with a service that they do not want but they have to *take action* to remove it instead of the other way around.
 - The need for users to opt-out of the service drew some ire from Congress. Massachusetts Rep. Edward J. Markey said Facebook ought to have made the technology "opt-in" for users. "If this new feature is as useful as Facebook claims, it should be able to stand on its own, without an automatic sign-up that changes users' privacy settings without their permission."

Government Databases

- ▶ Tax records
 - ▶ Bankruptcy records
 - ▶ Arrest records
 - ▶ Marriage license applications
 - ▶ Records of property ownership
 - ▶ Motor vehicle records
 - ▶ List of people with permits to carry firearms
 - ▶ Medical records
 - ▶ Welfare records
 - ▶ Books checked out of library
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Private Databases

- ▶ Credit histories
 - ▶ Medical records
 - ▶ Subscription and membership list
 - ▶ Customer list (including history of purchases)
 - ▶ Video rentals
 - ▶ Bank records
 - ▶ Telephone record
 - ▶ Employment records
 - ▶ Airline travel records
 - ▶ Personal profiles of online service subscribers
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Consumer Information

- ▶ **Balancing Risk and Benefits**
 - Computer databases can have benefits for both businesses and consumers. But the leakage and usage of the information can have devastating effects. The question is how much are we willing to accept in exchange for convenience and availability of useful information?

Privacy and Information Information Security

The End

