

# A TAXONOMY OF PRIVACY

## INFORMATION PROCESSING

**Aggregation**  
**Combining of various pieces of personal information**  
 A credit bureau combining an individual's payment history from multiple creditors.

**Insecurity**  
**Carelessness in protecting information from leaks or improper access**  
 An ecommerce website allowing others to view an individual's purchase history by changing the URL (e.g. enterprivacy.com?id=123)

**Identification**  
**linking of information to a particular individual**  
 A researcher linking medical files to the Governor of a state using only date of birth, zip code and gender.

**Secondary Use**  
**Using personal information for a purpose other than the purpose for which it was collected**  
 The U.S. Government using census data collected for the purpose of apportioning Congressional districts to identify and intern those of Japanese descent in WWII.

**Exclusion**  
**Failing to let an individual know about the information that others have about her and participate in its handling or use**  
 A company using customer call history, without the customer's knowledge, to shift their order in a queue (i.e. "Your call will be answer in the order [NOT] received")

## INFORMATION COLLECTION

**Surveillance**  
**Watching, listening to, or recording of an individual's activities**  
 A website monitoring cursor movements of a visitor while visiting the website.

**Interrogation**  
**Questioning or probing for personal information**  
 An interviewer asking an inappropriate question, such as marital status, during an employment interview.

Based on Dan Solove's  
*A Taxonomy of Privacy*  
[https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=667622](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=667622)

**Information Processing**  
 Aggregation  
 Insecurity  
 Identification  
 Secondary Use  
 Exclusion

**Information Collection**  
 Surveillance  
 Interrogation

**Information Dissemination**  
 Breach of Confidentiality  
 Disclosure  
 Exposure  
 Increased Accessibility  
 Blackmail  
 Appropriation  
 Distortion



## INVASION

**Intrusion**  
**Disturbing an individual's tranquility or solitude**  
 An augmented reality game directing players onto private residential property.

**Decisional Interference**  
**Intruding into an individual's decision regarding her private affairs**  
 A payment processor declining transactions for contraceptives.

**Invasion**  
 Intrusion  
 Decisional Interference



## INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

**Breach of Confidentiality**  
**Breaking a promise to keep a person's information confidential**  
 A doctor revealing patient information to friends on a social media website.

**Disclosure**  
**Revealing truthful information about a person that impacts her security or the way others judge her character**  
 A government agency revealing an individual's address to a stalker, resulting in the individual's murder.

**Exposure**  
**Revealing an individual's nudity, grief, or bodily functions**  
 A store forcing a customer to remove clothing revealing a colostomy bag.

**Increased Accessibility**  
**Amplifying the accessibility of personal information**  
 A court making proceeding searchable on the Internet without redacting personal information.

**Blackmail**  
**Threatening to disclose personal information**  
 A dating service for adulterers charging customers to delete their accounts.

**Appropriation**  
**Using an individual's identity to serve the aims and interests of another**  
 A social media site using customer's images in advertising

**Distortion**  
**Disseminating false or misleading information about an individual**  
 A creditor reporting a paid bill as unpaid to a credit bureau.