

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 them 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 answered 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

Information Processing
 Aggregation
 Insecurity
 Identification
 Secondary Use
 Exclusion

Information Collection
 Surveillance
 Interrogation

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 their private affairs
 A payment processor declining transactions for contraceptives.

Invasion
 Intrusion
 Decisional Interference

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

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 personal information about a person that impacts the ways others judge their character or their security
 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
 An 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.