

Health Information Privacy at the Age of Exposure

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Abstract: Nowadays data generates value to individuals, organizations, and society. Websites and Internet services are collecting personal data with explicit or implicit consent of users. Not only does new technology readily provide an abundance of methods for organizations to gather and store information, people are also willingly sharing data often exposing their personal data including that of their entourage.

Internet services, search engines, data aggregators, geolocation services and many other actors on the web are monetizing users' online presence for their own benefits. Similarly, current technologies including digital devices such as smartphones, tablets, cloud computing/SaaS, IOT are posing serious concerns for individuals.

Otherwise, ethical health research and privacy protections both provide valuable benefits to society. Indeed, collecting personally identifiable health information for health research is vital to facilitate access to new therapies, improved diagnostics, and more effective ways to prevent illness and deliver care. However, it needs to be carried out in ways that protect individuals' dignity.

In this talk, we propose to address various issues inherent to Internet data collection and disclosure behavior. More precisely, we examine the social, economic and legal dimensions of personal data and health privacy. We will show that preserving privacy is not an easy feat nowadays: technology is advancing too fast, legislation is far behind and security awareness is insufficient.