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## Own Yourself

Gabriel Morante

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# Own Yourself

Gabriel Morante

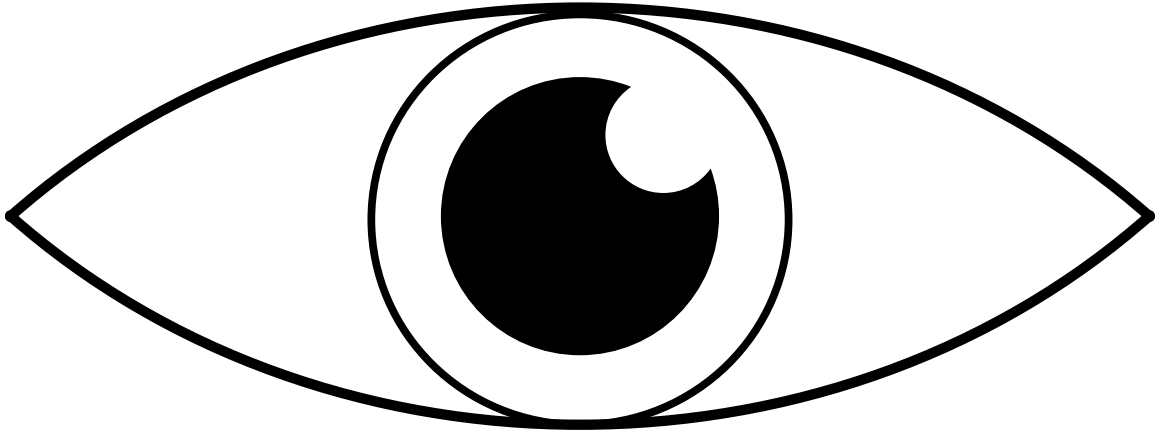
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## Artist's Bio:

Gabriel Morante is a Communication Design student at California State University, Monterey Bay. He developed an interest in digital privacy and graphic design in the past two years, and wishes to utilize his visual design skills to help shed light on the important, peculiar, and underappreciated.



# **OWN YOURSELF**


**A LOOK INTO PERSONAL DIGITAL  
PRIVACY & OWNERSHIP IN THE  
MODERN AGE**

# DISCLAIMER

**I AM NOT AND DO NOT CLAIM TO BE A PRIVACY PROFESSIONAL OR EXPERT. IN FACT I AM NOT EVEN A COMPUTER SCIENCE MAJOR. THAT DOES BRING TO QUESTION ON WHY I AM MAKING THIS. TO PUT IT SIMPLY, ITS BECAUSE I THINK PRIVACY AND DATA IS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE OF OUR TIME, UP THERE WITH CLIMATE CHANGE, RACIAL ISSUES, GLOBAL POLITICS, ETC. PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS, AND AS SOMEONE WHO STARTED THEIR PRIVACY JOURNEY 2 YEARS AGO, HOPEFULLY THROUGH THIS GUIDE, I CAN CONVINCE MORE PEOPLE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.**

**DO KEEP IN MIND THAT THIS IS A BIASED WORK, AND THIS IS MY OWN OPINION, THOUGH I DO TRY TO NOT PUSH IT.**

# PREAMBLE



**WE ALL VALUE SOME DEGREE OF PRIVACY IN OUR LIVES. PRIVACY IS WHAT I VIEW AS A STATE IN WHICH AN INDIVIDUAL, OR SOME PART OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S LIFE IS OBFUSCATED OR ANONYMOUS TO A (SELECT) AUDIENCE. THE FREEDOM TO BE PRIVATE ABOUT OUR INNER THOUGHTS, OUR ACTIONS, OUR RELATIONSHIPS BOTH PLATONIC AND ROMANTIC, ETC. THESE ARE THINGS WE TAKE FOR GRANTED, AND EVEN MORE SO, AS A GIVEN.**

**HOWEVER, EVER SINCE THE RISE OF THE INTERNET, AND IT'S INCREASING PRESENCE IN THE WORLD, OUR RIGHT TO BE PRIVATE HAS BEEN QUICKLY DIMINISHING, OFTEN WITHOUT US KNOWING, AND WHEN WE FINALLY DO, IT'S A BIT TOO LATE. WHILE THERE ARE MANY PARTIES THAT CAN BE POINTED TO AS A PART OF, OR A CAUSE OF THE PROBLEM, INCLUDING OUR OWN US GOVERNMENT, THE GROUP THAT IS MOST ILL-INTENT WITH INFORMATION GATHERING IS COMPANIES. A MARKET HAS ARISEN BASED ON THE GATHERING OF WHAT USED TO BE PERSONAL INFORMATION AND THE USAGE OF THAT INFORMATION FOR MONETARY GAIN.**

**IN THE DIGITAL ERA, OUR PRIVACY IS BEING INCREASINGLY ENCROACHED UPON BY MANY PARTIES. COMPANIES IN PARTICULAR ARE VIOLATING WHAT SHOULD BE A RIGHT, A RIGHT TO BE PRIVATE, IN ORDER TO FUEL SURVEILLANCE CAPITALISM, AND THEIR OWN GREED. PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW HOW EASY THEIR PERSONAL INFORMATION CAN BE GATHERED AND ITS CONSEQUENCES, AS WELL AS KNOW HOW TO COMBAT IT AND STRENGTHEN DIGITAL PRIVACY IN THE MODERN AGE.**



## WHY BOTHER?

YOU MAY BE ASKING YOURSELF, "WHY SHOULD I CARE? PRIVACY IS AN IMPORTANT THING TO HAVE, BUT I HAVE OTHER PRIORITIES. I HAVE WORK TO DO, BILLS TO PAY, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES THAT I CARE ABOUT A TON. WHAT MAKES PRIVACY AS IMPORTANT AS RACIAL ISSUE OR ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS?" TO PUT IT SIMPLY, IT'S BECAUSE WE, AS INDIVIDUALS, ARE BEING COMMODIFIED, TURNED INTO A PRODUCT IN THE EYES OF COMPANIES.

# HOW CAN THEY GATHER MY DATA?

"SURVEILLANCE CAPITALISM", IS A TERM MENTIONED BY PRIVACY ADVOCATE EDWARD SNOWDEN, THE FORMER NSA CONTRACTOR BEHIND THE LEAKED US GOVERNMENT SURVEILLANCE DOCUMENTS IN 2013. THE KEY HERE IS TIME, AS WHILE YOU THINK JUST SIGNING UP FOR AN ACCOUNT ON SOMETHING LIKE INSTAGRAM OR THINK YOU ARE JUST BROWSING THE WEB, OVER TIME,

"...THESE COMPANIES HAVE QUIETLY CREATED PERFECT RECORDS OF EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE, EVERYWHERE YOU'VE GONE, EVERYTHING YOU'VE CLICKED, EVERYTHING YOU'VE LIKED, HOW LONG YOU'VE STAYED ON A PAGE, YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU HAD TO SCROLL UP TO REREAD A SECTION" (SNOWDEN).

WHAT DO COMPANIES WITH YOUR DATA? SELL IT, THEY SELL YOUR DATA, THAT DETAILED PROFILE OF YOU FOR THE PAST MONTHS OR YEARS, TO GROUPS THAT YOU DON'T KNOW OR DON'T THINK THAT THEY COULD HAVE YOUR INFORMATION.

"...FOR EXAMPLE, AT&T HAS BEEN STORING ALL OF OUR MOVEMENTS...EVERY CUSTOMER, EVERYBODY WHO'S NOT EVEN THEIR CUSTOMER BUT HAPPENS TO BE CONNECTED TO ONE OF THEIR TOWERS AS THEY GO THROUGH TRAFFIC. GOING BACK TO 2009, THEY'RE STORING THIS. THEY HAVE THE LAST 10 YEARS OF YOUR MOVEMENTS, AND EVERYONE YOU KNOW, MORE OR LESS...THEY SELL THAT AS A SERVICE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES WITHOUT A WARRANT. THEY DON'T HAVE TO GO TO COURT AND SAY, YOU KNOW, WE NEED A WARRANT FOR THIS PARTICULAR PERSON AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME" (SNOWDEN).

WHILE WE COULD DEBATE ON LEGALITY OF GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY GAINING OUR DATA, THE REAL ISSUE IS HOW COMPANIES CAN GATHER YOUR DATA WITHOUT YOU KNOWING, AND IT CAN HAVE FAR REACHING CONSEQUENCES BEYOND THE UNWANTED INVASION OF OUR PRIVACY.

# INVASIONS OUTSIDE THE WEB

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE ONLINE FOR COMPANIES TO GATHER YOUR DATA. A NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE BACK IN 2012 REVEALED HOW TARGET TAGS PEOPLE WHO GO INTO THEIR STORE WITH AN ID, GATHERING DATA ON THEM, WHAT THEY BUY, TO WHETHER THEY ARE MARRIED, WHERE THEY LIVE, THEIR ETHNICITY, JOB HISTORY, ECONOMIC HISTORY, PERSONAL PREFERENCES, ETC. WHILE TARGET MAY NOT REVEAL WHAT DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION THEY COLLECT OR PURCHASE, WE DO KNOW THAT FROM THIS ARTICLE, ONE WAY THEY USE IT IS TO TARGET COUPLES EXPECTING A BABY, AND SUBTLY RECOMMEND THEM MORE BABY/FAMILY PRODUCTS TO MAKE TARGET THEIR ALL-IN-ONE STORE (DUHIGG).





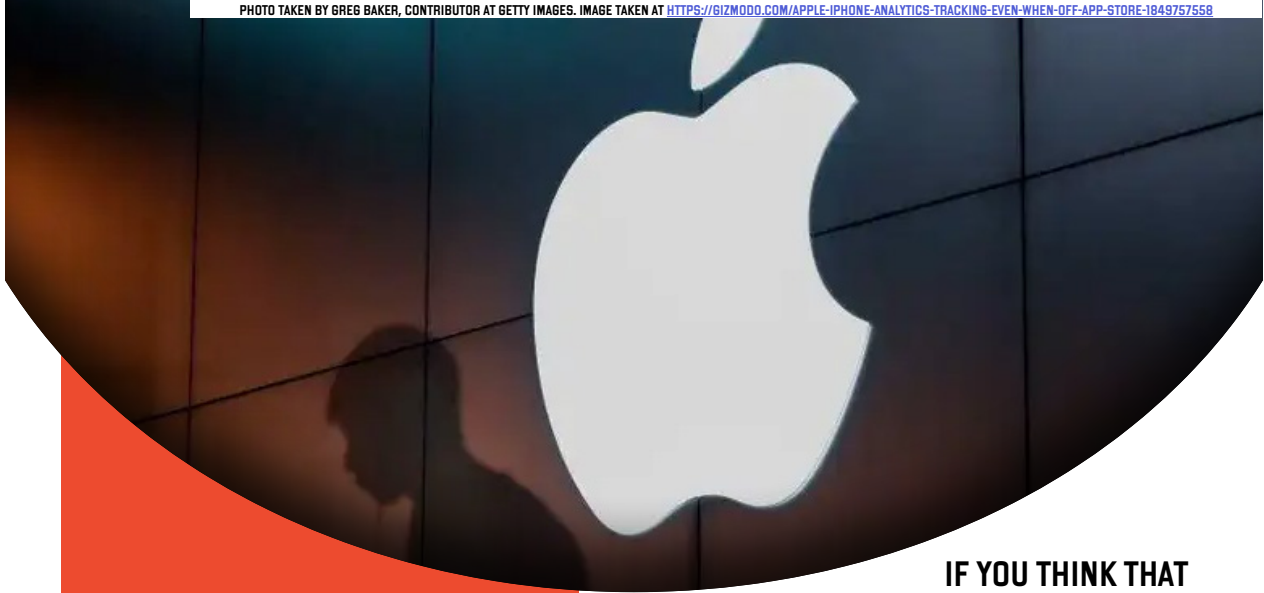
# INVASIONS IN OUR POLITICAL DISCOURSE

DATA GATHERING CAN BE USED TO INFLUENCE OUR POLITICS, SUCH AS WHEN CAMBRIDGE ANALYTICA, A FIRM WITH TIES TO THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, AND WAS FOUNDED ON THE PREMISE TO BETTER TARGET VOTERS DURING POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS, GATHERED DATA FROM FACEBOOK THROUGH A THIRD-PARTY APP TO **BUILD VOTER PROFILES THAT MAY HAVE HAD A HAND IN INFLUENCING THE 2016 ELECTIONS (MCKINNON) (CONFESSORE).**

IN FACT THE CONNECTION BETWEEN SUCH DATA-GATHERING AND PERSONALIZATION METHODS, PROFILE BUILDING, AND POLITICAL TENSION, WAS ONE OF THE MAIN FOCUSES BEHIND THE 2020 DOCUMENTARY, **THE SOCIAL DELIEMMA.**



PHOTO TAKEN BY GREG BAKER, CONTRIBUTOR AT GETTY IMAGES. IMAGE TAKEN AT [HTTPS://GIZMODO.COM/APPLE-IPHONE-ANALYTICS-TRACKING-EVEN-WHEN-OFF-APP-STORE-1849757558](https://gizmodo.com/apple-iphone-analytics-tracking-even-when-off-app-store-1849757558)



# INVASIONS IN JUST THE PAST MONTH

IF YOU THINK THAT THESE SCANDALS ARE TOO OLD TO BE CONSIDERED, LETS TAKE A LOOK WITHIN THE PAST MONTH, NOVEMBER 2022. IN THIS SINGLE MONTH, ITS HAS BEEN REVEALED THAT SOME TAX FILING SERVICES LIKE TAX-ACT AND H&R BLOCK HAVE BEEN **SENDING USERS FINANCIAL INFORMATION TO FACEBOOK (TEITIER)**, AND ITS ALSO BEEN REVEALED THAT DESPITE BEING ABLE TO DISABLE "SHARE IPHONE ANALYTICS" **APPS MADE BY APPLE THEMSELVES STILL TRACK YOU (GERMAIN).**



**WITH ALL OF THAT IN MIND, YOU  
MAY THINK THAT THE IDEA OF YOUR  
LIFE BEING YOUR OWN IS A THING  
OF THE PAST...**

**I DISAGREE**

**YES THE CURRENT SITUATION  
REGARDING DIGITAL OWNERSHIP OF OUR  
DATA AND OUR RIGHT TO BE LEFT ALONE IS  
IN EVER-GROWING PERIL. HOWEVER ALONG  
WITH THIS, THERE HAS BEEN EVER-GROWING  
ATTENTION IN FIGHTING AGAINST THESE  
INVASIONS OF OUR PRIVACY. YOU CAN FIGHT  
IT TOO, YOU JUST NEED TO THE RIGHT PUSH.**



# **PRIVACY VS CONVENIENCE**

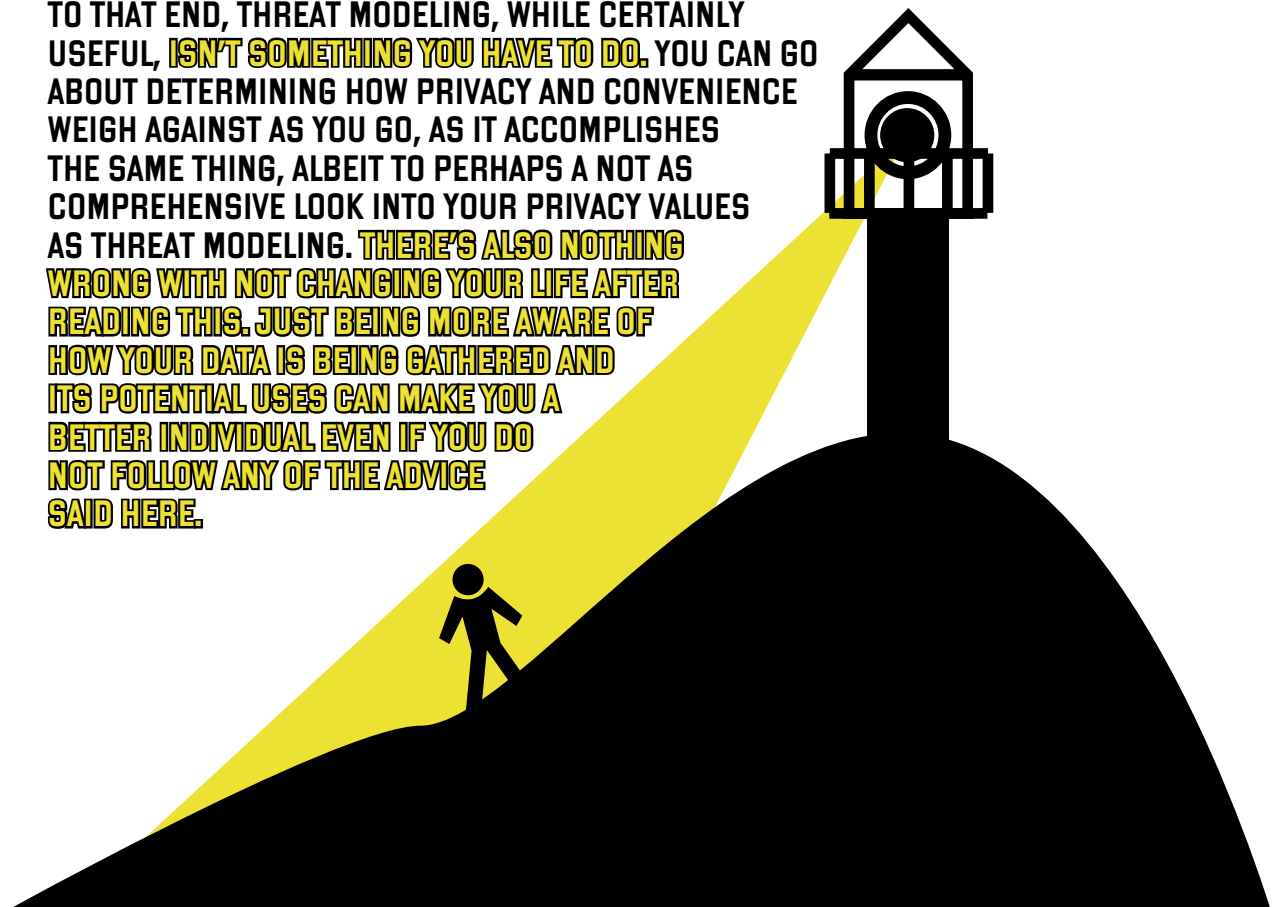
**THE THING YOU HAVE TO REALIZE ABOUT PRIVACY IS THAT IT IS A BALANCING ACT. YOU BALANCE BETWEEN PRIVACY AND CONVENIENCE. (GENERALLY) THE MORE YOU PRIVATIZE YOUR LIFE, THE LESS CONVENIENT YOUR LIFE WILL BE, AND THE MORE CONVENIENT YOU WANT YOUR LIFE TO BE, THE MORE YOU ARE LIKELY TO SACRIFICE YOUR DATA, YOUR PRIVACY, FOR THE SAKE OF IT.**

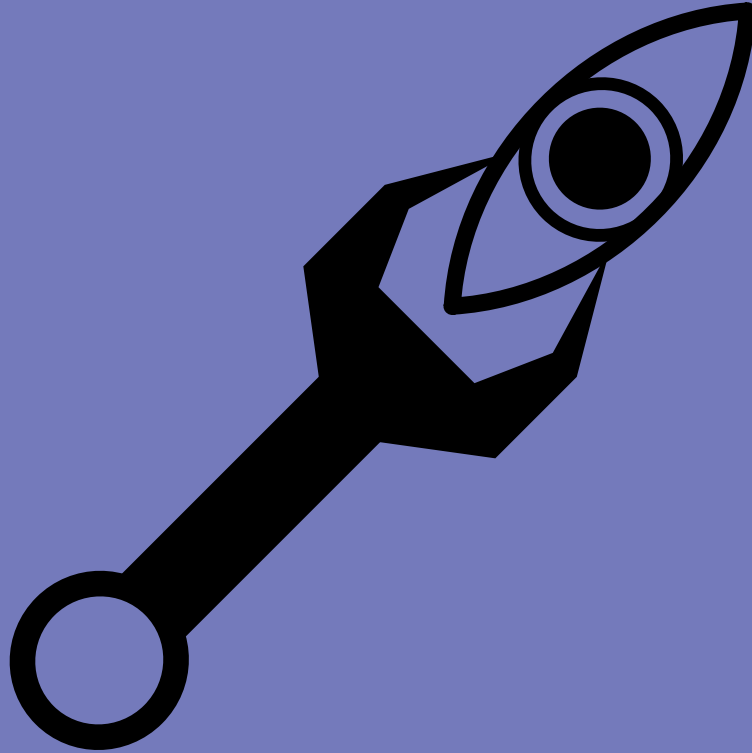
# THREAT MODELING

"THREAT MODELING" IS A TERM THAT I OFTEN SEE WHEN DEALING WITH PERSONAL PRIVACY. ONE OF THE RESOURCES I USE FOR MY OWN PRIVACY, PRIVACY GUIDES, SUMS UP THE TERM BEST, "A THREAT MODEL IS A LIST OF THE MOST PROBABLE THREATS TO YOUR SECURITY AND PRIVACY ENDEAVORS." (PRIVACY GUIDES). PRIVACY GUIDES HAS A DEDICATED PAGE WALKING YOU THROUGH THE PROCESS ([HTTPS://WWW.PRIVACYGUIDES.ORG/BASICS/THREAT-MODELING/](https://www.privacyguides.org/basics/threat-modeling/)), HOWEVER THE IT BOILS DOWN TO **WHAT YOU WANT TO PROTECT, WHO YOU WANT TO PROTECT IT FROM AND WHY, AND HOW FAR ARE YOU WILLING TO DETER THOSE PRIVACY DETRACTORS.** THREAT MODELING IS A USEFUL PRACTICE THAT CAN BE APPLIED BEYOND DIGITAL PRIVACY, TO SAY FINANCIAL SECURITY OR PROPERTY SECURITY.

## THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT IS REQUIRED...

THREAT MODELING STILL BOILS DOWN TO THE BASIC QUESTION ON HOW MUCH YOU WANT YOUR LIFE TO BE PRIVATE AND HOW MUCH YOU WANT IT TO BE CONVENIENT. TO THAT END, THREAT MODELING, WHILE CERTAINLY USEFUL, **ISN'T SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO DO.** YOU CAN GO ABOUT DETERMINING HOW PRIVACY AND CONVENIENCE WEIGH AGAINST AS YOU GO, AS IT ACCOMPLISHES THE SAME THING, ALBEIT TO PERHAPS A NOT AS COMPREHENSIVE LOOK INTO YOUR PRIVACY VALUES AS THREAT MODELING. **THERE'S ALSO NOTHING WRONG WITH NOT CHANGING YOUR LIFE AFTER READING THIS. JUST BEING MORE AWARE OF HOW YOUR DATA IS BEING GATHERED AND ITS POTENTIAL USES CAN MAKE YOU A BETTER INDIVIDUAL EVEN IF YOU DO NOT FOLLOW ANY OF THE ADVICE SAID HERE.**





# IMPROVE PRIVACY

**IF YOU DO WANT TO TAKE BACK CONTROL OF YOUR DATA FROM COMPANIES, WHAT CAN YOU DO? WELL THREAT MODELING IS A GOOD PRACTICE, HOWEVER BELOW ARE A LIST OF MORE PRACTICES AS WELL AS TOOLS THAT THAT MAY PROVE USEFUL TO YOUR PRIVACY JOURNEY.**

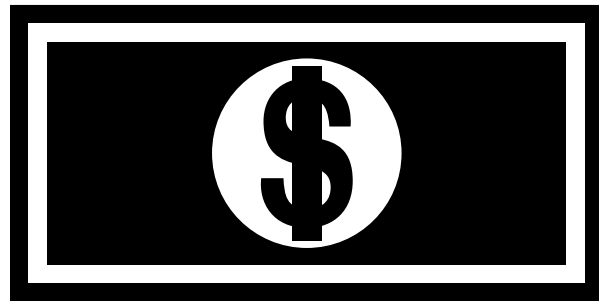
# PRIVACY PRACTICES

## VOTE WITH YOUR WALLET/ATTENTION/DATA

A FORM OF PROTEST AGAINST COMPANIES WHO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR DATA AND USE IT AT THE BEHEST OF US. **VOTE WITH YOUR WALLET, ATTENTION, AND/OR**

**DATA. DON'T LIKE HOW A COMPANY HAS HARNESSED AND/OR UTILIZED YOUR DATA? PERHAPS ITS TIME TO TAKE YOUR BUSINESS SOMEWHERE ELSE. IF ITS SOME SORT OF STORE, THEN LOOK TO OTHER PLACES TO BUY YOUR GOODS. IF ITS A SOCIAL MEDIA SERVICE THEN YOU SHOULD PROBABLY LESSEN YOUR INTERACTIONS WITH THAT SERVICE,**

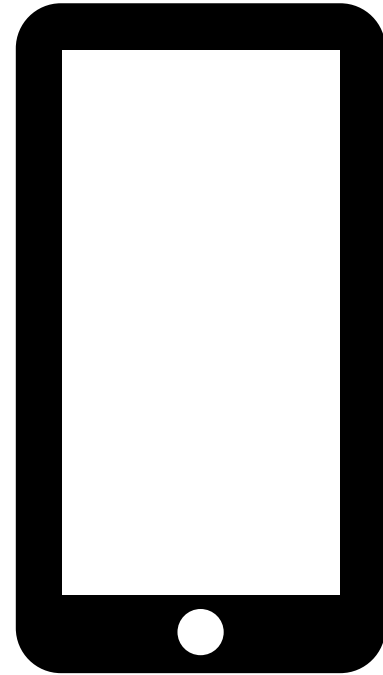
**ABANDON IT, AND/OR A COMPLETELY WIPE YOUR DATA FROM THEIR SERVERS (SEE "PERSONAL DATA CONTROL" FOR MORE DETAILS). THE LESS YOU USE A SERVICE, THE LESS A COMPANY CAN GATHER YOUR DATA, AND THE MORE THAT DATA THEY ALREADY HAVE OF YOU GETS OUTDATED AND LESS USEFUL.**



**KNOW THAT YOU ARE BEING TAKEN ADVANTAGE YOU CAN'T CHOOSE WHETHER A COMPANY IS NO LONGER WORTH YOUR TIME WITHOUT EVIDENCE. YOU SHOULD OCCASIONALLY LOOK UP A COMPANY THAT YOU USE THEIR SERVICES TO SEE HOW THEY ARE DOING. ANY PRIVACY SCANDALS? UPDATES REGARDING A CONSUMER'S USAGE OF A SERVICE? PERHAPS EVEN A CHANGE IN MANAGEMENT? YOU SHOULD LOOK OUT FOR THESE RED FLAGS SO THAT YOU CAN REACT QUICK AND APPROPRIATELY. I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT YOU START READING AND FOLLOWING MORE TECH-FOCUSED AND/OR MORE PRIVACY-FOCUSED NEWS OUTLETS, SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNITIES AND PAGES, YOUTUBE CHANNELS, AND/OR DEDICATED WEBSITES/BLOGS BY PRIVACY PROFESSIONALS/ADVOCATES.**

## BE LESS TECH-ADDICTED/KNOW WHEN TO STOP YOUR PHONE

STRICTLY SPEAKING FROM A PRIVACY PERSPECTIVE, BEING LESS RELIANT ON YOUR DEVICE NOT ONLY MEANS LESS DATA GATHERING BY THE SERVICES YOU USE, BUT ALSO BY THE DEVICES YOU USE. IT MAY BE DIFFICULT, HOWEVER PERHAPS YOU CAN JUST LEAVE YOUR SMARTPHONE AT HOME WHEN YOU GO OUT. IF YOU DON'T FEEL COMFORTABLE WITHOUT A COMMUNICATION DEVICE ON HAND, THEN PERHAPS ITS TIME TO REWIND THE CLOCK, AND GET YOURSELF A DUMBPHONE (I.E. FLIP-PHONES/FEATURE PHONES/CELLPHONES) IF YOU THINK ABOUT SCROLLING DOWN INSTAGRAM OR TIK-TOK, THINK TO YOURSELF, WHAT CAN YOU DO INSTEAD? PERHAPS YOU CAN READ A BOOK, PRACTICE A SKILL, OR GO TO SLEEP CAUSE IT'S 2 AM AND YOU HAVE WORK THAT DAY.

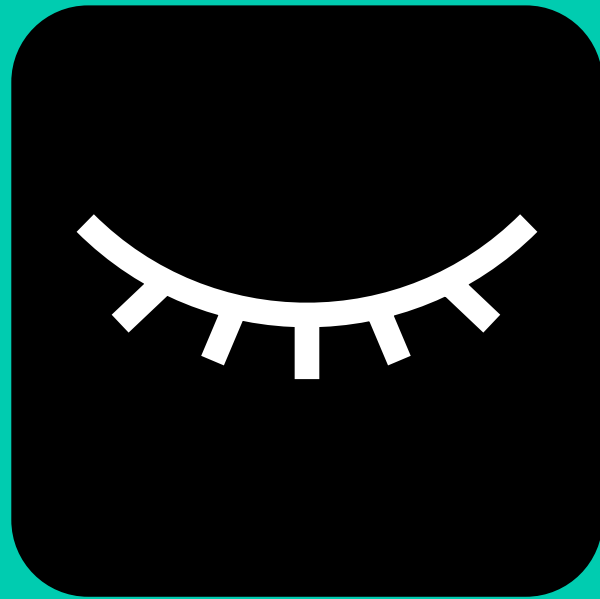


## WEIGHING YOUR OPTIONS (OR RATHER, CONSEQUENCES)

EVERY SERVICE YOU SIGN UP FOR, EVERY COOKIES THAT YOU ACCEPT, EVERY POP-UP THAT SAYS THAT SIGN UP OR ENTER YOUR EMAIL TO ACCESS THE SERVICE, STOP YOURSELF. THINK CRITICALLY ON WHETHER HAVING MORE HANDS ON YOUR DATA IS WORTH WHAT YOU GET IN RETURN. WE SIGN UP FOR A LOT OF SERVICES THAT WE DON'T USE OR BARELY USE BEFORE ABANDONING IT, AND ACCEPT A TON OF COOKIES FOR POP-UPS FOR A SITE THAT WE DON'T REALLY KNOW MUCH ABOUT. SO, THINK CRITICALLY, AS FOR THE BRIEF ACCOMPLISHMENT YOU GET FROM ACCESSING THE ANSWER, THE PEOPLE RUNNING THESE SERVICES ACCOMPLISH FAR MORE BY BEING ABLE TO FURTHER BUILD UP A PROFILE OF YOURSELF WITHOUT YOU FULLY REALIZING IT.

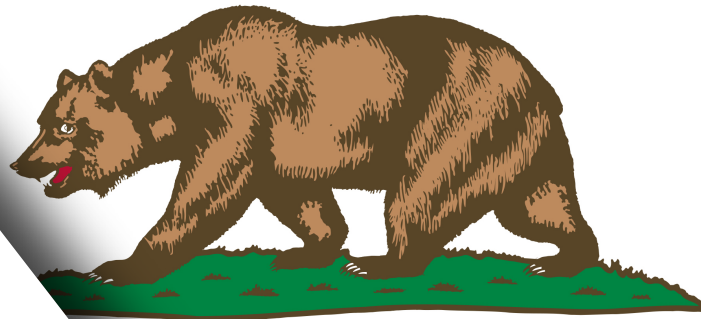






# RECOMMENDED TOOLS/SOFTWARE

THIS PAGE SERVES AS A LIST OF TOOLS AND SERVICES THAT I USE OR RECOMMEND FOR SOMEONE LOOKING TO TAKE THEIR DIGITAL PRIVACY MORE SERIOUSLY. AGAIN, THIS IS JUST MY OPINION ON WHAT YOU SHOULD USE, AND BY NO MEANS SHOULD YOU TAKE IT AS GOSPEL. I RECOMMEND YOU CHECK THE SOURCES I LINKED BELOW AND DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH TO SEE WHAT WORKS FOR YOU

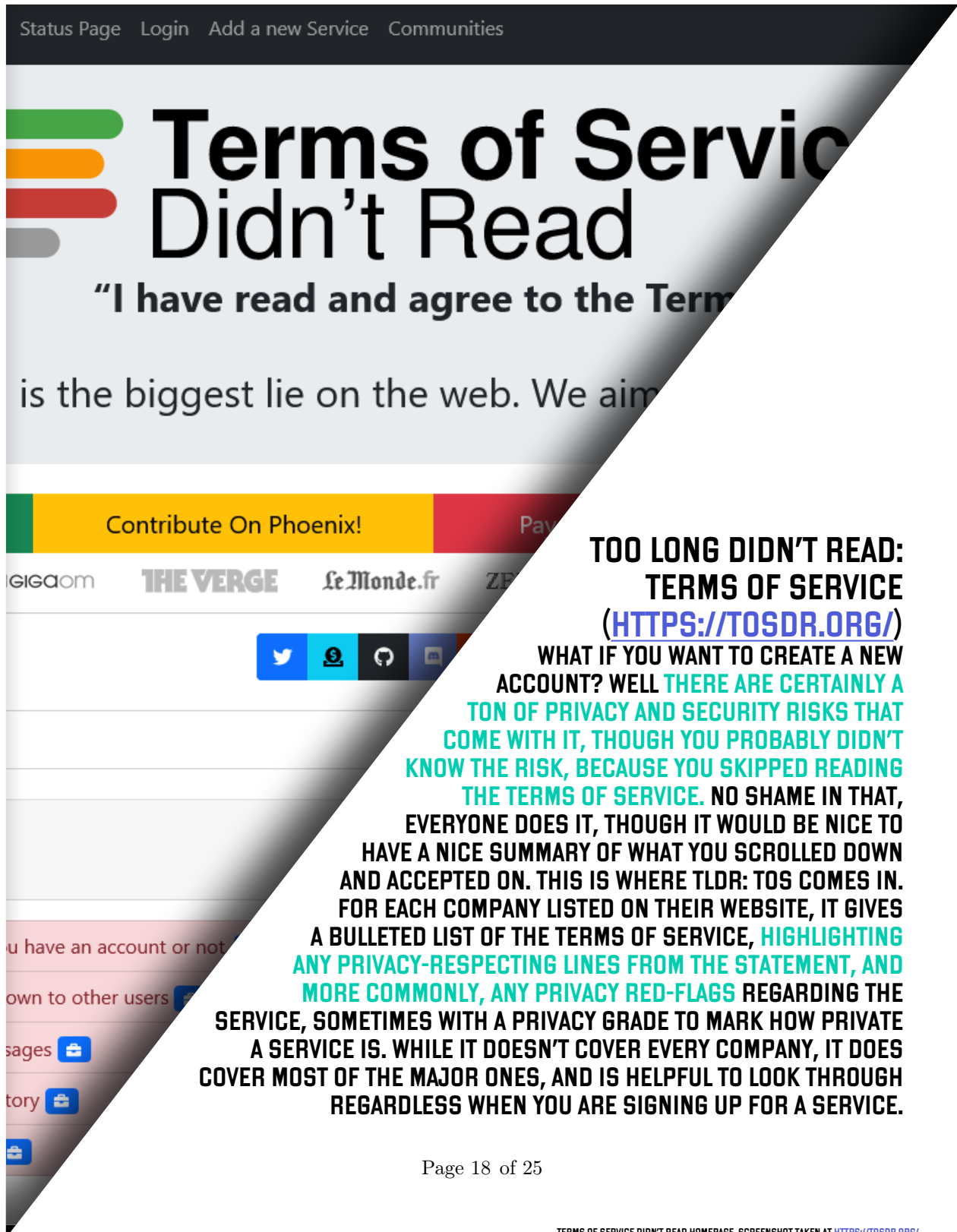


**CALIFORNIA REPUBLIC**

## **PERSONAL DATA CONTROL**

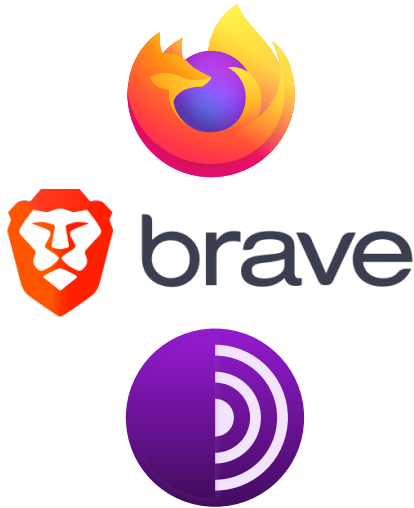
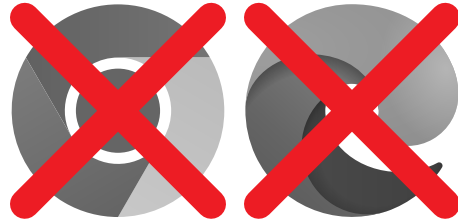
**PERHAPS THE MOST UNDERUTILIZED TOOL IN YOUR ARSENAL IS THE PROCESS IS THE ABILITY TO DETERMINE HOW YOUR DATA IS BEING HANDLED BY COMPANIES. LEGISLATION SUCH AS THE CALIFORNIA'S CALIFORNIA CONSUMER PRIVACY ACT & THE EUROPEAN UNION'S GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION ALLOW INDIVIDUALS SUCH PRIVILEGES AS ACCESSING THEIR DATA THAT A COMPANY HAS GATHERED, DELETING SAID DATA, AND THE ABILITY TO OPT-IN OR OUT OF DATA GATHERING BY COMPANIES. TO DO ANY OF THIS, SIMPLY EITHER EMAIL THE COMPANY REGARDING YOUR REQUEST, OR LOCATE WHERE YOU CAN ACCESS, DELETE, AND OPT-IN OR OUT OF YOUR DATA ON THE COMPANY/SERVICE'S APPLICATION OR SITE. IT IS TEDIOUS, BUT IT IS CERTAINLY WORTH MAKING YOUR LIFE MORE PERSONAL AGAIN.**





## BROWSERS

IF YOU CARE ABOUT PRIVACY, THEN YOU PROBABLY WANT TO DITCH POPULAR BROWSERS AND SEARCH ENGINES LIKE GOOGLE SEARCH AND GOOGLE CHROME. AS MENTIONED, THEY HAVE BEEN CRITICIZED BY PRIVACY ADVOCATES, REGULATORS, AS WELL AS THEIR COMPETITORS FOR THEIR MASS DATA COLLECTION.



WHILE THEY ARE CHOICES LIKE MICROSOFT EDGE, ITS BETTER TO TRUST WHAT IS RECOMMENDED TO BE PRIVACY RESPECTING BROWSERS, SUCH AS FIREFOX AND BRAVE. THESE ARE GOOD STARTING POINT AND PERHAPS ALL YOU NEED. WHILE A LOT OF BROWERS OFFER MORE PRIVACY, ONLY THE TOR BROWSER ALLOWS FOR ANNONYMIY OF THE USER (NOT COMPLETE ANNONYMIY, BUT AT LEAST THE CLOSEST THING TO IT). DO NOTE THAT THE MORE YOU MODIFY A BROWSER FOR PRIVACY, THE MORE CERTAIN ASPECTS (OR THE WHOLE) OF A WEBSITE MAY BREAK. AGAIN, IT'S A QUESTION OF PRIVACY VS CONVENIENCE.

## SEARCH ENGINES

SOME RECOMMENDED SEARCH ENGINES ARE DUCKDUCKGO, STARTPAGE, AND SEARX/SEARXNG. THESE ENGINES MAY TAKE (SOME) OF THEIR SEARCH RESULTS FROM LESS PRIVACY ALIGNED ENGINES LIKE GOOGLE SEARCH OR BING, HOWEVER THEY OFTEN LOG LITTLE TO NO PERSONAL INFORMATION THAT CAN BE USED TO IDENTIFY YOU.

# Startpage



DuckDuckGo.

# SearXNG

## EXTENSIONS

THERE ARE MANY EXTENSIONS YOU COULD USE TO NOT ONLY MAKE YOUR BROWSING EXPERIENCE MORE PRIVATE, BUT ALSO MORE CONVENIENT.

### U-BLOCK ORIGIN

A FREE, OPEN SOURCE (READ FURTHER FOR WHY OPEN SOURCE MATTERS) EXTENSION THAT SERVES AS A CONTENT BLOCKER, **BLOCKING BOTH ADS AND TRACKERS WITHOUT BEING TOO MUCH FOR YOUR COMPUTER.** FEEL FREE TO INSTALL AN ENJOY BROWSING WITHOUT HAVING TO DEAL WITH AD POP-UPS AND OTHER ANNOYING ADS, AS WELL AS INVASIVE TRACKING FROM PARTIES LIKE FACEBOOK.



NOTE: UPDATES TO CHROMIUM (A BROWSER'S BACK-END MADE BY GOOGLE), SPECIFICALLY REGARDING MANIFEST V3, WILL LIMIT THE CAPABILITIES OF EXTENSIONS LIKE THE ONE'S LISTED BELOW. MOST BROWSERS LIKE MICROSOFT EDGE USE CHROMIUM AND ARE LIKELY TO FOLLOW SUIT, IF NOT STATED THAT THEY ALREADY WILL, HENCE THE NEED TO SWITCH TO A LESS GOOGLE RELIANT BROWSER. FIREFOX HAS STATED THAT IT WILL BE SUPPORTING BOTH MANIFEST V3, AND IT LAST VERSION, MANIFEST V2, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT EXTENSIONS (LIKE THE ONES LISTED BELOW) THAT RELY ON LESS CONSTRICTED TECHNOLOGY TO BE THE BEST THAT THEY CAN BE.

### LIBREDIRECT

AN EXTENSION THAT REDIRECTS YOU FROM POPULAR SITES SUCH AS TWITTER AND YOUTUBE, TO THEIR PRIVACY FRONTEND ALTERNATIVES. **YOU CAN THINK OF THIS AS GOING TO A MORE PRIVACY-RESPECTING WEBSITE, BUT STILL BEING ABLE TO ACCESS THE CORE FEATURES OF EACH MAJOR WEBSITE AT THE MINIMUM (E.G. YOUTUBE VIDEOS, TWEETS, RETWEETS, TWITTER LIKES, INSTAGRAM POSTS).** THIS NOT ONLY PREVENT TRACKING BY THE MAJOR COMPANIES BEHIND THESE SERVICES, BUT ALSO CIRCUMVENTS ANNOYING ASPECTS OF THESE WEBSITES, SUCH AS TWITTER FORCING YOU SIGN IN OR SIGN UP IF YOU WANT TO SCROLL MORE THAN 3 CM.



NOTE: SOMETIMES REDIRECTS DON'T WORK AND YOU ARE DIRECTED TO AN ERROR SCREEN. THE EXTENSION DOES HAVE A DEDICATED BUTTON TO ESSENTIALLY REDO THE REDIRECT IN THE EXTENSION MENU BUT IT SOMETIMES DOESN'T APPEAR, MAKING A SIMPLE PROCESS LIKE WATCHING A VIDEO NEEDLESSLY LONG AS YOU ATTEMPT OTHER METHODS

## RECOMMENDED SITES/GUIDES

IF YOU WANT TO LOOK AT MORE PRIVACY AND SECURITY FOCUSED ALTERNATIVES TO POPULAR SOFTWARE, CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING SITES FOR USE

### PRIVACY GUIDES

([HTTPS://WWW.PRIVACYGUIDES.ORG/](https://www.privacyguides.org/))

BY FAR PROBABLY THE MOST EXTENSIVE PRIVACY RESOURCE OUT THERE. I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND YOU USE IT AS YOUR ONLY SOURCE FOR PRIVACY RECOMMENDATIONS AND HELP, BUT IT IS CERTAINLY A VERY GOOD STARTING POINT/PRIMARY SOURCE FOR RECOMMENDATIONS AND HELP. THEIR REASONING AND METHODOLOGY FOR CHOOSING RECOMMENDATIONS ARE OFTEN QUITE DETAILED, LISTING THEIR BENEFITS, DRAWBACKS, AS WELL AS ADDITIONAL TIPS. THEY HAVE A KNOWLEDGE BASE WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE DETAILED EXPLANATIONS FOR THREAT MODELING, PRIVACY AND INFORMATION MISCONCEPTIONS, GOOD PASSWORDS, AND SO MUCH MORE.



**ALTERNATIVETO**  
([HTTPS://ALTERNATIVETO.NET/](https://alternativeto.net/))  
ALLOWS YOU TO SEARCH POPULAR SOFTWARE, SUCH AS PHOTOSHOP, YOUTUBE, SPOTIFY, AND VIEW A LIST OF ALTERNATIVES TO THOSE SERVICES, AS WELL AS THEIR FEATURES AND REVIEWS BY PEOPLE WHO HAVE USED BOTH THE SERVICE AND THE ALTERNATIVE. WHILE THE SITE IS NOT FOCUSED ON PRIVACY, IT CAN BE USED TO FIND PRIVACY ALTERNATIVES FOR MANY POPULAR SERVICES.

## AWESOME PRIVACY

([HTTPS://GITHUB.COM/PLUJA/AWESOME-PRIVACY](https://github.com/pluja/awesome-privacy))

A MORE SIMPLER PRIVACY GUIDES. EACH SECTION INVOLVES A POPULAR TYPE OF APPLICATION, A LIST OF SOFTWARE TO AVOID AND WHY, AS WELL AS A LIST OF ALTERNATIVES AND REASONS TO USE IT. IT COVERS A WIDER RANGE OF PRODUCTS COMPARED TO ITS MORE DETAILED COUNTERPART.

# AWESOME PRIVACY

Friends don't spy

THE REASONING BEHIND EACH RECOMMENDATION IS ALSO OFTEN SHORT, SO I WOULD RECOMMEND DOING YOUR OWN RESEARCH, COMPARING THE ALTERNATIVES AND SUCH TO COME TO YOUR OWN CONCLUSION.

## AWESOME OPEN SOURCE

([HTTPS://AWESOMEDOPENSOURCE.COM/](https://awesomedopensource.com/))

A SIMILAR WEBSITE TO ALTERNATIVETO IN ITS USE, HOWEVER FOCUSES ON OPEN SOURCE PRODUCTS. OPEN SOURCE MEANS THAT THE CODE BEHIND THE APPLICATION IS FREE FOR EVERYONE TO VIEW, (POTENTIALLY) MODIFY, AND DERIVE NEW APPLICATIONS FROM IT. THIS ALSO MEANS THAT ANYONE CAN SCAN THE CODE FOR POTENTIAL HARMFUL OR ILL-INTENT CODE AND REMOVE IT. THIS I WHAT MAKES OPEN-SOURCE TRUSTWORTHY. YOU KNOW THAT THE CODE BEHIND THE SOFTWARE CAN BE VIEWED BY EVERYONE, COMPARED TO CLOSED-SOURCED (PROPRIETARY) SOFTWARE IN WHICH YOU HAVE TO TRUST THAT THE PEOPLE ALLOWED TO VIEW THE CODE DON'T HAVE ANY ILL-WILL. OTHER WEBSITES SHOWN HERE ALSO LIST OPEN-SOURCE SOFTWARE, BUT THIS WEBSITE SPECIFICALLY FOCUSES ON IT.

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Awesome Open Source



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# **AFTERWARD (AND A FEW MORE THINGS)**

**THANKS FOR READING MY GUIDE/BROCHURE/BOOKLET/MULTI-PAGE PDF (I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW I WOULD DESCRIBE THIS). THERE'S CERTAINLY A LOT MORE ALTERNATIVES THAT I COULD'VE GONE INTO, LIKE PASSWORD MANAGERS OR LINUX (ALTERNATIVE TO WINDOWS/MAC), HOWEVER A LOT OF THESE WERE PROBABLY A BIT TOO ADVANCED OR FIT MORE INTO THE SECURITY CATEGORY THAN PRIVACY. BOTH SECURITY AND PRIVACY CERTAINLY HAVE A LOT OF OVERLAP BUT THERE WAS ONLY SO MUCH TIME AND I REALLY JUST WANTED TO FOCUSED ON DIGITAL PRIVACY. I ALSO COULD'VE GOTTEN INTO THE GOVERNMENT AND HOW THEY FACTOR INTO AN INDIVIDUALS PRIVACY, BUT AFTER THINKING ABOUT IT THE SITUATION FELT LESS AND LESS BLACK AND WHITE COMPARED TO NON-CONSENSUAL DATA GATHERING AND SELLING.**

**THERE WILL BE TIMES THAT YOU ASK YOURSELF, "WHY? HOW DOES THAT WORK? WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE TWO SOFTWARE? WHAT ARE THE DRAWBACKS?". TO THAT END, I CAN ONLY RECOMMEND YOU GO SEARCH THOSE QUESTIONS YOURSELF, THROUGH SCOURING THE WEB AND PERHAPS ASKING ON SOME PRIVACY-FOCUSED FORUMS. THIS SOLUTION SUCKS, I KNOW, BUT THIS ISN'T MY INFORMATION/DATA THAT I WANT TO PROTECT. YOU ARE READING THIS BECAUSE ITS YOUR INFORMATION/DATA THAT YOU WANT TO PROTECT AND KEEP PRIVATE. IT'S GOOD TO HAVE**

**TO WHOEVER READS THIS, I HOPE YOU TAKE WHAT I SAID TO HEART AND CONSIDER YOUR PRIVACY IN DAY-TO-DAY LIFE MORE.**



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