

Lab – Who Owns Your Data?

Objectives

Explore the ownership of your data when that data is not stored in a local system.

Part 1: Explore the Terms of Service Policy

Part 2: Do You Know What You Signed Up For?

Background / Scenario

Social media and online storage have become an integral part of many people's lives. Files, photos, and videos are shared between friends and family. Online collaboration and meetings are conducted in the workplace with people who are many miles from each other. The storage of data is no longer limited to just the devices you access locally. The geographical location of storage devices is no longer a limiting factor for storing or backing up data at remote locations.

In this lab, you will explore legal agreements required to use various online services. You will also explore some of the ways you can protect your data.

Required Resources

- PC or mobile device with Internet access

Part 1: Explore the Terms of Service Policy

If you are using online services to store data or communicate with your friends or family, you probably entered into an agreement with the provider. The Terms of Service, also known as Terms of Use or Terms and Conditions, is a legally binding contract that governs the rules of the relationship between you, your provider, and others who use the service.

Navigate to the website of an online service that you use and search for the Terms of Service agreement. Below is a list of many popular social media and online storage services.

Social Media

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/policies>

Instagram: <http://instagram.com/legal/terms/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/tos>

Pinterest: <https://about.pinterest.com/en/terms-service>

Online Storage

iCloud: <https://www.apple.com/legal/internet-services/icloud/en/terms.html>

Dropbox: <https://www.dropbox.com/terms2014>

OneDrive: <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/microsoft-services-agreement>

Review the terms and answer the following questions.

- a. Do you have an account with an online service provider? If so, have you read the Terms of Service agreement?

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- b. What is the data use policy?
- c. What are the privacy settings?
- d. What is the security policy?
- e. What are your rights regarding your data? Can you request a copy of your data?
- f. What can the provider do with the data you upload?
- g. What happens to your data when you close your account?

Part 2: Do You Know What You Signed Up For?

After you have created an account and agreed to the Terms of Service, do you really know what you have signed up for?

In Part 2, you will explore how the Terms of Service can be interpreted and used by providers.

Use the Internet to search for information regarding how the Terms of Service are interpreted.

Below are a few samples articles to get you started.

Facebook:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/social-media/9780565/Facebook-terms-and-conditions-why-you-dont-own-your-online-life.html>

iCloud:

http://www.americanbar.org/publications/law_practice_today_home/law_practice_today_archive/april12/have-attorneys-read-the-icloud-terms-and-conditions.html

Dropbox:

<http://www.legalgenealogist.com/blog/2014/02/24/terms-of-use-change-dropbox/>

Review the articles and answer the following questions.

- a. What can you do to protect yourself?

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- b. What can you do to safeguard your account and protect your data?