

As Data Collecting Grows, Privacy Erodes

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1. Define: muster, scourge, encroachment, anonymous, abstract, aggregation, subpoena, exploit, surveillance, compliance

2. Why is privacy important to people? Is it important to you?

3. Can personal information be anonymous? Explain.

4. What is the difference between public and private life? Why do people put so much effort into controlling their public image?

"So many databases...lend themselves to other uses, such as finding parents behind on their child support payments."

5. Is knowledge power? Is information a weapon? If people have a weapon can they be prevented from using it? Explain.

"...they [AT&T] broke their promises to their customers -- 'we are going to route your phone calls, not be an agent of the state'"

6. What is an "agent of the state"? Should everyone be an agent of the state in the war on terror? Why/why not?

7. Should we be concerned about violations of privacy? Or is this only an issue for people who have done something wrong? Explain.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/16/technology/16link.html>