



Privacy in America

What does privacy look like for Americans in 2018? These resources offer a range of perspectives on privacy.

Conversation Questions

1. What types of privacy safeguards should Americans expect from the companies whose products they use? From their government?
2. What responsibility do companies have to preserve the privacy of their clients and customers?
3. What constitutes a reasonable expectation of privacy in America in 2018?

Key Definitions *(from Merriam-Webster Learner's Dictionary)*

- *privacy* – the quality or state of being apart from company or observation; freedom from unauthorized intrusion
- *surveillance* – close watch kept over someone or something

Privacy and Anti-Surveillance

“The Long, Lonely Road of Chelsea Manning” from *The New York Times Magazine*

<https://goo.gl/iQ72A8>

This 2017 profile of Chelsea Manning explores her role in disclosing classified documents in 2010, as well as how that act can be considered the beginning of an “age of leaks.”

“Edward Snowden: The Untold Story” from *Wired*

<https://goo.gl/4VmwsV>

This 2014 article dives deeply into the life, work, and actions of Edward Snowden, who in 2013 leaked classified information about NSA surveillance programs.

“Long before Snowden, Librarians Were Anti-Surveillance Heroes” by April Glaser in *Slate*

<https://goo.gl/fyLYbX>

This article explores libraries’ response to the 2001 USA PATRIOT Act alongside professional values for open access to information.





“The State of Privacy in Post-Snowden America” by Lee Rainie for *Pew Research Center*

<https://goo.gl/hhcD7v>

This report summarizes Americans' concerns and perceptions related to privacy and surveillance in the United States.

Privacy and the Internet

“‘Cambridge Analytica is Just the Tip of the Iceberg’: Why the Privacy Crisis Is Bigger Than Facebook” by Maya Kosoff for *Vanity Fair*

<https://goo.gl/nS9CwU>

This article explores the potential personal and commercial implications of privacy scandals like the recent one at Facebook with Cambridge Analytica.

“How Cambridge Analytica, Facebook and Other Privacy Abuses Could Have Been Prevented” by Daniel J. Weitzner in *Lawfare*

<https://goo.gl/Jry1Z9>

This post from the director of the MIT Internet Policy Research Initiative looks at recent personal data abuses from a perspective of preventing such abuses in the future.

“Facebook Revamps Privacy Tools as Tighter EU Rules Draw Near” by Barbara Ortutay in *AP News*

<https://goo.gl/fDfraJ>

As the European Union enacts data privacy regulations that will result in significant fines for companies that do not comply, Facebook is updating its privacy tools and policies.

“Nonconsensual Image Sharing: One in 25 Americans Has Been a Victim of ‘Revenge Porn’” from *Data & Society Research Institute*

<https://goo.gl/y9eXfY>

This 2016 report explores the internet-age issue of nonconsensual image sharing, including recent legislation enacted to punish those who publish personal images online without the consent of the person pictured.

