Research Report

Leiden Model United Nations 2017
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Forum: **Human Rights Council**
Issue: **Privacy on the internet**

Position: **President**

Introduction

Decades ago privacy really wasn't that much of an ongoing issue. In the days of agrarian society everyone seemed to know about everyone else's business and personal lives. As we moved forward into an era of denser population centers due to the advent of the sudden industrial revolution, we collectively found a greater yearning for privacy.

General Overview

The internet has become one of the most persistent and useful technological tools available. Regardless of age or technological sense, many people use the internet daily for a number of purposes. It is used to communicate with friends and family, research information for work, for school, or for personal curiosity. It also keeps people up to date with current events and allows them to shop online. People use personal data like credit card numbers and bank account information they believe is going to disappear once they leave the website. The internet is like a storage bag that stores everything that a user looks at or places on the internet. A user's information may be revisited by that individual, but other people may be just as able to do so. Every website that is visited can be tracked without that person even knowing. Advertisers use this method to sell products and also to sell that information they collected to others. Advertisers are not the only ones doing this but also service providers, hackers, and governments. Emails, sites visited, networking sites, and web searches are places that these kinds of people look at just to look for up information about that person. Although the internet has created positive impacts on society, threats to personal privacy and security have emerged as well.
The technology of online storage of information is a relatively new method, therefore it is not being successfully controlled by governments due to the lack of a proper legal system to regulate the flow of online data. This deficiency makes it much harder to bring any cases of cyber crimes to court. Even though some countries may have laws regarding cyber lawsuits, the question of the freedom of information has not been covered.

Due to the globalised nature of the Internet, it's jurisdiction is a much more tricky area than anything before it, and courts in different countries have taken

various views on whether they have jurisdiction over items published on the Internet, or business agreements entered into over the Internet. This can cover areas from contract law, trading standards and tax, through rules on unauthorized access, data privacy, and spamming to more political areas such as freedom of speech, censorship, libel or sedition.
Certainly, the frontier idea that the law does not apply in "Cyberspace" is not true. In fact, conflicting laws from different jurisdictions may apply, simultaneously, to the same event. The Internet does not tend to make geographical and jurisdictional boundaries clear, but Internet users remain in physical jurisdictions and are subject to laws independent of their presence on the Internet. As such, a single transaction may involve the laws of at least three jurisdictions:
- the laws of the state/nation in which the user resides,
- the laws of the state/nation that apply where the server hosting the transaction is located, and
- the laws of the state/nation which apply to the person or business with whom the transaction takes place.

So a user in one of the United States conducting a transaction with another user in Britain through a server in Canada could theoretically be subject to the laws of all three countries as they relate to the transaction at hand.
Some experts such as Steve Rambam, a private investigator specializing in Internet privacy cases, believe that privacy no longer exists; saying, "Privacy is dead – get over it". In fact, it has been suggested that the "appeal of online services is to broadcast personal information on purpose."On the other hand, in his essay The Value of Privacy, security expert Bruce Schneier says, "Privacy protects us from abuses by those in power, even if we're doing nothing wrong at the time of surveillance."

Appendix/Appendices

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/lament-end-internet-privacy-read/
https://www.csoonline.com/article/3176766/security/privacy-issues-in-2017.html
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_privacy
https://www.technopedia.com/definition/24954/internet-privacy
https://www.bostonglobe.com/business/2017/08/02/don-bet-internet-privacy/Pr1SxQNH5ShlYEYEjIckmK/story.html
http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/technology/347016-while-congress-kills-internet-privacy-states-are-taking-a-stand
https://www.aclu.org/issues/privacy-technology/internet-privacy