

IS 300 — Lecture 16

- ◆ How are computers impacting privacy?

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Definition: The right to decide what personal information an entity wants to share with others.

Privacy Legislation (a sample)

- **Fair Credit Reporting Act** (1970). “Reasonable business need” defines access
- **Privacy Act of 1974**. Vague language and OMB does not enforce vigorously
- **Video Privacy Act** (Bork Bill) (1988).

Problems with legislative approach

- Mostly federal government and a small number of private or regulated firms
- Often victim does not know that it’s happening
- Filing a suit makes information public
- Not covered
 - Medical records
 - Insurance info
 - Credit card transactions
 - Most state government records (motor vehicles)
 - Phone bills
 - Rental and real estate records

An information privacy code of ethics (PAPA)

Privacy – Certain information is private and need not be revealed without due cause and without consent

Accuracy – Custodians of information have a responsibility to authenticate, validate, and maintain information

Property – Information has an owner. It's the owners right to control the use of the information

Accessibility – Who can have access to the information

What can you do?

- As a **requestor** of information
 - Ask for only what you need
 - Use only for defined purpose
- As a **supplier** of information
 - Refuse to supply information if there is no justification for needing it (credit card phone number)