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)