



Privacy: Can we afford not to?

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What is it about privacy?

- About
 - The subject: usually a person
 - Identity: set of attributes or claims
 - Separation of inherent or assigned attributes from profiled information
 - Policies about what to share and what not
- Not about complete isolation



Interesting attributes

- Identification: name, government id number, address, etc.
- Authorship: linking identity to resources
- Communication: Others with whom have communicated
- Usage: Objects, services, and other resources used



What if we could not control these?

- Identification: invasion of privacy, masquerading, failure of business relationships,
- Authorship: failure of legal contracts, freedom of speech
- Communication: failure of freedom of association
- Usage: failure of freedom of thought

Consider: requirements of diplomacy, intelligence gathering, proprietary and confidential business

Consider: confidentiality of doctor-patient and attorney-client relationships



Consequences of Internet devoid of privacy

- No commercial substrate
- No social substrate
- No civil substrate

- Likely: walled gardens in stove-pipe constructions, privacy only controllable in restricted communities



Where does that leave us?

- Reality: privacy will not be perfect
- Privacy is not about complete hiding, but controlled sharing with enforcement
- Privacy will exist in some form, because social, business, and civil arenas cannot exist without them
- Question: at which layer in the architecture?



Which architectural layer?

- App space:
 - user involvement and control
 - Can be end-to-end
- Transport:
 - Narrow waist of the architecture – locus of homogeneity
 - VERY difficult to change
- Below transport: apparent walled gardens, isolation