

On Privacy and Trust

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Abstract

The issue of what privacy is seems to have been settled after the publication of Daniel J. Solove's excellent –and much lauded- book on the subject. However, there seems to be a grey area which requires further elucidation and that is the asymmetrical and even contradictory attitudes, stances and views that individuals hold concerning their own privacy and the extent to which they voluntarily violate it or freely allow others to do so. Secondly, I will examine the different views on privacy as they vary in the various domains of activities in which individuals engage. I will argue that the main factor which is responsible for such variations in one's opinions and attitudes is the element of trust placed by the individual on the agent or the agency which will acquire and manage personal information and especially in light of the actual or the potential significance of such data in the future.