

Real World Privacy

How to leave fewer breadcrumbs in life

by Roger Cooke

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What are you talking about?

The focus here is not a 'why' talk, we're talking the how.

If you need to know why, leave your full name, DOB and SSN with me and I'll get back to you (perhaps you'll get back to yourself).

A key principle in being private

If information doesn't exist, it can't be

- Used against you
- Used for you
- Subpoenaed
- Stolen or lost

Privacy can have monetary costs. Are you willing to pay?

Privacy may not be free and there may be a direct cost to being anonymous:

- No award points (airlines, hotels, grocery store)
- Higher fees at retail stores (grocery store)
- No subscription discounts
- No credit card benefits (buyer protection)
- No insurance on belongings

Before thinking about protecting your privacy,
ask **what** is it that you are trying to protect?

Your name and who you are?

Where you live?

What you spend your money on?

Your hobbies?

Why you visited the doctor?

Where you travel to?

Where you work?

How much you (don't) make?

Your personal identifying information?

Before thinking about protecting your privacy,
ask **who** is the threat?

Nosy boss?

Nosy neighbor/house mate?

Ex-lover?

Former “professional” associate?

Random target of opportunity?

Someone you accidentally pissed off?

The Feds?

Big Business?

Different people want data for different reasons.
Think before you give it up.

More on the threat

“A 360-degree view of the customer is so tantalizing that most companies are virtually drooling over the prospect of being able to sell, service, market, cross-sell, and update sell from a common view of a customer’s history.

– *Information Week* April 5, 2004 page 67

Who do you trust?

- Do you trust everyone the trusted person trusts? Will these people handle your information per your wishes?
- What happens when a person or company violates that trust? Are there consequences?
- Can you believe companies? Sometimes there is not a choice in who you're dealing with.
- Black Unicorn, speaking at the 12th USENIX Security Symposium, called trust "reliance on something in the future; hope."

Level of Privacy Achieved

When making an informed decision about privacy, ask yourself what is the level of privacy desired and the level that your actions will achieve.

A P.O. Box is great, however you must show two forms of ID including a driver's license (passport can be 2nd form) and provide your real address. This isn't going to stop people serious about finding you, but it keeps the casual observer from knowing your place of residence.

Oops

If you're serious about protecting your private information, one slip means your privacy is lost.

- Directions to your house for a party posted online.
- Relative sends you a package to your home using your real name.
- E-mail is forwarded to a public mailing list.
- Business doesn't take cash and you **NEED** the item or service they are providing.
- Roommate busted for drug possession.

Three sections

- Daily Life – how living a normal life intersects with being private
- Stuff Happens – dealing with unexpected events in life
- Miscellaneous Brain Candy

Anonymity vs. not so much so

- | | |
|--|---|
| ↓ Grocery card, real name or credit card/check | ↑ Grocery card, fake name & paid in cash |
| ↓ Survey where you get your reward in the mail | ↑ On the street survey, free stuff |
| ↓ Mail in rebate | ↑ Instant cash back |
| ↓ Tivo TV viewing | ↑ Rabbit ears |
| ↓ Cell phone (location) | ↑ Cash pay phone call |
| ↓ Online purchases | ↑ Local shopping |
| ↓ Real address | ↑ PO Box (for sender) |
| ↓ Auto pass | ↑ Cash at tollbooth (still have license plate...) |

Daily life

- Identification
- Money
- Transportation
- A place to live
- Trash
- Retail Shopping
- Communication
- Education
- Surveillance

Identification

“A name is no longer a simple identifier: It is the key to a vast, cross-referenced system of public and private databases, which lay bare the most intimate features of an individuals life.”

SanLuisObispo.com editorial June 23, 2004 referencing an EFF amicus brief on the Larry Hiibel v. Sixth Judicial District Court of Nevada.

Identification

- Use your passport as primary means of identification, except while driving.
 - No address listed, SSN never listed
 - Universally accepted (not the post office but...)
 - No magnetic strip for data collection, but still machine readable (local bar won't have this gear)
- Get rid of your SSN from your wallet
 - Cut it out of medical cards if needed
 - Get a new driver's license

Identification

- If you use an alias, make sure its use is not taken as “intent to defraud”.¹
- Are you asked to present a photo ID when filling out a form? Good candidate for using an alias.
- Can things be done in the name of a Limited Liability Company?

¹ The speaker is not a lawyer and has not reviewed this with a lawyer. Not even over drinks. Don't even think of this as legal advice. When in doubt seek professional legal guidance about what is and is not legal.

Money

Spending It

- Basic
 - Where possible, deal in cash. Buy locally. Barter services.
 - Cashier's checks & money orders or travelers checks not from your bank (will cost \$)
 - Exchanging money – find someplace that doesn't require ID.
- Advanced options:
 - Print your own checks from your Limited Liability Company.
 - Proxy agent. Got a trusted friend earning miles on their credit card?
 - Disposable credit cards (more for anti-fraud than privacy since tied to main credit card). AMEX shut their program down; Citibank and MBNA have programs.

Money

Spending It

- Avoid
 - Credit cards
 - Worse are debit cards
 - PayPal. Good for fraud, bad for privacy.
 - Wire transfers. Too harsh ID requirements on either end.
 - Moving large amounts of money at one time

Money

Besides giving credit card companies a complete list of where you shop and what you purchase also consider:

- Credit card companies give stores your address information when using credit cards
- Credit card companies report balances to credit bureau every month (it's in your credit card agreement)
- Can be location specific. Terry was at the gas station at 2nd and Middleware at 2:20 am Saturday morning. Charge of \$98 from backwoods motel on Wednesday July 15.

Money

Concerns spending cash?

- Cash for plane tickets, will get flagged. Trade-off?
- Deposits (car rental, surfboard, bar tab, hotel rooms)
- Buying online
- Having cash serial #s recorded by company. Threat?
- Large cash transactions raise eyebrows
 - Ever purchase a new car with cash?
- Trade offs:
 - Don't appear to be money laundering
 - Don't appear to be a drug dealer
 - Returning big ticket items (>\$100) paid for in cash can be a headache

Money

Understanding US Legal Issues

- IRS Form 4789 Currency Transaction Report (CTR)
 - \$10,000 and above
- US Customs Form 4790 Report of International Transportation of Currency or Monetary Instruments (CMIR)
 - \$10,000 and above in/out of country
- Treasury Department Form 90-22.47 and OCC Form 8010-0, 8010-1 Suspicious Activity Report (SAR)
 - Wide open requirement
- Bank Secrecy Act - Monetary Instrument Sales Records
 - Cash sales of bank checks, drafts, cashier's checks, money orders and traveler's checks between \$3,000 and \$10,000

Source: Bank Secrecy Act/Anti-Money Laundering Comptrollers Handbook Revised Web Addition December 2000

Money

To spend money, you have to get it

- Chances are, you'll get your cash from a bank
 - Will your employer pay you cash? Unlikely these days
- Does your workplace require direct deposit or can you take a check on payday?
 - Should your work know about your bank? Should your bank know about your place of employment?
- Is it OK to trust your financial institution?
 - ATM vs. Live transactions
 - Fake ATMs, false fronts, fake keypads, skimming devices
 - PATRIOT ACT and divulging information
 - Customer Identification Program, 5 yrs after closing acct.
 - LexisNexis Anti-Money Laundering Solution

Money

Make sure it's you that people are dealing with

- Put non-obvious passwords on all your financial accounts, replacing your social security number or mother's maiden name.
- Ask your credit card issuer not to send you convenience checks as you will never know when they go missing.
- Get your financial institutions to lock your web accounts if you don't plan on using them.
- Check your credit report annually, think about paying for a credit monitoring service (but you'll likely have to pay by credit card, what is the trade-off?).

Money

Lastly

- What information is on your check? Go with J. Smith (or the account is in the name of your Limited Liability Company right?). What does “J” stand for?
- Minimize the footprint. 1-888-5-OPTOUT for getting off pre-approved credit card mailings.
- Using cash means being responsible and reporting your cash income. This is for privacy, not avoiding Uncle Sam.
- If you have a cash stash, safely document it's location someplace in the event of your untimely demise.

Transportation

Auto purchase at dealer

- On credit
 - Prepare to give away the store.
- Payment on delivery
 - Require real name, physical address and may also want social security number and date of birth.
- Have one of your Limited Liability Companies make the car purchase.

Transportation

Auto purchase - private party

- A private party will just want your money, sign over the car.
- If going through bank on pre-approved loan, prepare to give it all up
- Opportunity to borrow from a friend or family (issues of lending friends money not addressed here). Will the seller self finance?

Transportation

Auto registration

- With LexisNexus or other data warehouse service, very easy to map a license plate to a physical address and owner. Think about that next time your vehicle comes up for renewal. (Title 18, Part I, Chapter 123, Section 2721 prohibits this disclosure)
- Next time you cut someone off in traffic, will they come looking for you? Where will they come looking for you?
- One more thought, park in a garage if possible.

Transportation

Auto insurance concerns

- All states and D.C. have requirement
- Good reason not to have a car, besides cost.
- To set the correct rate, an insurer will want to know all about you and your car including where the car will be parked at night.
- Submitting false information on the insurance application can have bad consequences regarding payout of insurance policy when needed. Are you prepared never to make a claim?

Transportation

Auto insurance solutions

- Can you self insure by posting a high dollar bond amount? Understand the financial risk vs. the privacy reward.
- Is the car listed owned by an LLC, can the LLC get insurance on the car?
- Can the driver ride someone else's policy where legal?
- Are cars needed full time, or can they be rented with insurance for short periods of time?

Transportation

Auto black box: Systems used for good and bad

- OnStar – physically remove/disable if not purchasing the service.
- Airbag data recorders – remove “black box,” understand this will disable airbag system. Buy an older car without airbags.
 - Vetronix’s Crash Data Retrieval System
- LoJack
- Usage based auto insurance
- Automobile tracking via other means

Threat

- OnStar used to track bank robbers (cnn.com 09/26/2002)
- By court order, OnStar tracking and listening capability is available¹
- OnStar used in conviction of hit-and-run¹
- Stalking by way of automobile tracking¹

¹“This Car Can Talk. What It Says May Cause Concern” by John Schwartz, *New York Times* 12/29/2003

Transportation

Tolls and automated toll services

- London Congestion Zone – data kept for 24 hours, or is it? (www.cclondon.com)
- E-Zpass used to track whereabouts (*New York Times Online*, 12/29/2003)
- SunPass not used to track speeders (*Palm Beach Post Online*, March 7, 2004)
- EXpressToll – Privacy policy posted online. Information disclosed “as required by law.”

Transportation

Going public

- Taxi
 - Over the air broadcast of credit card numbers
 - Pay cash, may record pick up and drop off sites
- Bus/Metro/Train
 - Don't link ticket to a name/address
 - Some systems "swipe" ticket/pass. Tracking ticket.
 - Yearly/monthly/weekly pass
- Ski pass
 - Can you pay cash, get picture taken, and put in another name?

Air travel in the US

- SSSS: take the long line
- Trusted traveler – worth it? UK iris scanning
- Naming convention. Not using your name.
- Credit cards. The only answer? Proxies, travel agents and paying cash.
- The international angle
 - US-VISIT, Brazil & the UK
- Side note: Don't out air-marshals

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A61866-2004Mar15?language=printer>

Air travel – what to believe?

“We do not provide that type of information to anyone,” Northwest Airlines, September 2003 quoted in the *New York Times* as described here:

<http://www.epic.org/privacy/airtravel/nasa>

“Northwest Airlines provided information on millions of passengers for a secret U.S. government air-security project soon after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks...” from the *Washington Post* January 18, 2004

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A26422-2004Jan17?language=printer>

Air travel – what to believe?

“The airlines will not voluntarily turn over this data [referring to requests for airline customer information]” says Doug Willis, VP of external affairs for the Air Transport Association, the trade organization for the major US Airlines. “Privacy pressure, airlines and hotels face customer concerns arising from anti-terrorism efforts” by Tony Kontzer, March 22, 2004 <http://www.informationweek.com/showArticle.ihtml?articleID=18401079>

“A top homeland security official told Congress that five major domestic airlines turned over sensitive passenger data to the agency or its contractors in 2002, and 2003...” “More False Information from TSA” by Ryan Singel June 23, 2004 <http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,63958,00.html>

Renting wheels

- Credit card or bust. Company policies for cash rental often require broad reaching information from renter including utility bills and current pay stubs. Credit cards give the rental company less information but still...
- Pay cash at the end of rental, won't show on credit card bill. Or will it? Ask ahead of time if they pre-bill, some do, issuing a credit if paying by cash at the conclusion of the rental.
- Now companies are tracking and recording with "telematics" (GPS); it's in the fine print.

A place to live

Utilities & service on the residence

- Place in someone else's name or LLC
- Rent a room, not an apartment.
- Put down cash deposit instead of credit check
- Use a proxy or roommate as signer
- Mortgage, rent, homeowners/building fee, phones, gas, water, sewage, trash, cable, satellite, lawn service, milk delivery, ISP
- Do you need all these services? Can you share some with a neighbors (trash, ISP)?

A place to live

Roommates

- How well do you know your roommates?
Thought about a background check on them and would that help?
- Do you trust all their friends that come over?
- Physically lock up papers
- Passwords on your computer
- Tamper evident computer case
- Theft of belongings would be less painful compared to theft of bank accounts and ID.

Threat

- Police check utility records to see where you live without a warrant.
- Private eyes routinely use utility records to track down where people live.
- Property records are public records.

Threat

- Delivery companies keep databases of who is where
 -
- Easy for insider to lookup where you live, or who lives at a specific address.

A place to live

Neighbors

- Never piss off your neighbors
- Neighbors reporting you to LEO or other...
- They may be friendly, do you really need to tell them about your life? Are they the neighborhood gossips?
- Neighborhood directories
 - Avoid, or give out min info (use initials, misspellings of names)
 - Do you think your neighbors shred these?

Threat

If something happens in your neighborhood, your neighbors may point the finger at you. Murder, rape, robbery. “They were always strange” or “There was something odd about them.” Watch for the sound bytes in the media next time something happens. Do you want this used against you?

A place to live

The repairman

- Get a friend to help out vs. hiring a “pro”?
- *Never* leave a repairman alone in your residence, and escort at all times
- Keep all papers, goodies & whiteboards out of site or under wraps.
- Keep anything that may be suspicious out of sight. Got a lot of computers? Maps? Radios? Weapons, real or just real-looking?

Threat

- Repairmen case homes for theft
- Repairmen steal
- Repairmen report you to the feds for being suspicious, or for being obnoxious

Trash

Shred it all with a confetti (crosscut) shredder

- What does your trash tell about you?
- Shredding the bills, statements, envelopes & address labels
- Destroying prescription bottles
- Trash alternatives – work? Bus station? Local dumpster? Think shared resource.
- What goes in the recycling bin?

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/12/21/magazine/21IDENTITY.html>

Retail Shopping

- Paying cash may require pre-planning. Never give out your name or other identifying information.
- If there is a line for a haircut or at a restaurant, use a fun name instead
 - Just remember which name you used 😊
- Don't use discount cards or other information that can track patterns. If you must have one, discard after a few months, get a new card.
- Renting a movie? Go with cash, fake name. Have someone else rent it. Purchase movie instead of renting. Think of Judge Robert Bork and his movie rental history [Now a law on this "The Video Privacy Protection Act of 1988" (18 U.S.C. section 2710)]

Communication

Phones

- Setup with cash deposit, no credit check
- Unlisted, unpublished and reverse directory
- Caller ID, caller ID blocking. No call list? No.
- Toll free numbers
- Calling cards as means to prevent tracking
- Is the account web accessible?
- Call record history
- Get a pager or VMB for inbound calls

Communications

Landlines

- Direct link between account name and physical address
- ISDN as outbound option. Setting Caller Line Identification (CLI).
- Avoid, go right to wireless
- For god sakes, don't use a cordless!
- Opt out of Customer Proprietary Networking Information (CPNI) sharing which includes phone numbers customers call and the time which calls where made
 - <http://www.denverpost.com/Stories/0,1413,36~33~1783549,00.html>

Communications

Wireless

- Location tracking
- Newer phones and GPS
- Inbound call logging
- Records not on phone bill
 - On & Off location
 - Roaming
- Calling cards as means to prevent logging your local carrier from keeping call history.

Communications

Inbound parcel & post

- Avoid using real address. Never use real address with real name for **anything**.
- PO Box is OK, however USPS rules require showing a driver's license, passport is OK as secondary identification. Seems persons at post office have sold real addresses...
- Commercial Mail Receiving Agency (CMRA), still need ID to open box.
- Mailing to the workplace (package from Good Vibrations isn't best to send to the office...)

Communications

Inbound parcel & post

- Proxy; can someone else be setup to receive your mail? Accountant, lawyer, relative, friend? Do you trust them?
- Can someone else setup a PO Box or MBE box for you? Understand legality of this.
- Consider a residential address that will take mail for you (mail in rebates, driver's license).
- Package mailed to local hotel concierge
- Do you need a functional mailbox at your residence? Will that raise eyebrows?
- Never fill out a permanent change of address form.

Communications

Mail & FedEx

- Sending
 - Take to post office, don't leave in outgoing mailbox (theft). Avoid post office with video cameras recording the mail drop box.
 - Leave off the return address
 - Pay cash, even at FedEx (exact change will do the trick)

Communications

Mail – other issues

- Opt out! Avoid the list in the first place
 - DMA Mail Preference Service, P.O. Box 9008, Farmington, NY 11735-9008
 - www.the-dma.org/consumers/offmailinglist.html
- Use an alias or two or three...
- Change the spelling of your name if you have a lame mail delivery person that rejects aliases
 - I.P. Freely, Ivann Peter Freely, Ivan Freely
 - Jon, John, Johne, Jonn, Johnn
- Magazine & newspaper subscriptions – never in your name.
 - Newsstand. Less convenience, more cost, more privacy.

Communications

Computer based

- Make data logging trail one sided and stay dynamic (e-mail, IP addresses)
- Shred, overwrite, delete
- Ensure backups don't copy off data
- Ensure data destroyed on backups too!
- Encrypt e-mail. Yes, it takes time.
- Chat? Go encrypted with Trillian or IRC.
- Use lots of e-mail addresses, or at least aliases for inbound e-mail.

Education

K-12

- Consider home schooling as an option. Or private schools offer another choice.
- K-12 is hardest to deal with, to enroll in school district, an actual address must be presented. Does school need information about where parents work, multiple contact numbers? Need to weigh tradeoff when child gets sick in school. What's practical? What's required?
- Minimize information given to school. Getting your children to understand this is tough.
- Insist, in writing, school not disclose personal information, especially true for high school students (schools giving information to colleges).
- Watch out with handing information out for SAT/ACT.

Education

College and beyond

- Need based scholarships, worth the “cost”?
- Living on campus has its pros (easier judicial system) and cons (loss of privacy per contract).
- Roommates you don't know.
- Using school systems for Internet access.
- Information theft even after leaving school; all your information is out there, and it's still getting stolen. What is the colleges privacy policy; is there a track record of break-ins?

Surveillance

Who is watching

- Shoulder surfing? What are you doing?
- Listening in? What are you saying?
- 9,000 surveillance cameras on Manhattan
Wired, 12/03 pg 62
- Embedded cameras everywhere, so what about the gym locker room?
- Face-recognition: Olympics, Super Bowl, Casinos
- Van Eck emissions

Stuff Happens

- A visit to the doctor
- A visit with law enforcement
- Life Events
 - Birth, Marriage, Divorce, Death

A visit to the doctor

or who has access to your medical data?

- Administrative staff (back office nearly always contracted out, sometimes to a far land)
- Insurance company (sign release, see doctor)
- Drug companies news.go.com July 23, 2002
- Researchers news.go.com July 23, 2002
- Government
- Your employer
- Law enforcement? news.go.com July 23, 2002

A visit to the doctor

How to limit information sharing

- For anything sensitive, go to a free clinic or a people's clinic out of your local area. Use a different name, pay cash. Don't give consent to share, not needed.
- Local health fairs for screening. Don't visit the location down the street from where you live or work as you may see someone you know.
- Pay cash for treatment and prescriptions (why should your bank/credit card issuer know you've been seeing a someone at "The Baldness Clinic")?
- Go to a non-chain doctor & pharmacy in a non-NASPER state (National All Schedule Prescriptions Electronic Reporting Act).

Life Events

- Births, divorces and deaths are announced in newspaper and are a matter of public record.
- Careful what is said in obituary. Usually too much information about family and physical whereabouts.
- Get married out of the area, don't put announcement in the paper (sorry, mom).
- Hospitals sell records to all sorts of places, talk to them before being admitted.
- HIPPA may change things, wait and see.

A visit with law enforcement

or how to not be private anymore

- You are screwed
- Avoid at all costs
- If arrested, local lawyers may get e-mail about your case and will contact you
<http://www.lexisone.com/balancing/articles/ap040004f.html>
- Police are using digital video dashboard cameras, keeping each days video for 90 days regardless of any crime or ticket.
<http://www.wired.com/news/technology/0,1282,64105,00.html>

Fun facts and figures

- Experian has demographic data on 215 million consumers and 110 million households across the country
 - http://www.experian.com/small_business
- “The U.S. Treasury Department Plans to publish nearly 10,000 e-mail addressees on the Web, violating its privacy promise to Americans who used e-mail to comment on a government proceeding.”
 - http://news.com.com/2102-1028_3-5137488.html?tag=st.util.print
- “More than three million people in the United States were victims of identity-theft-related fraud in the past year, according to a recent survey by the Federal Trade Commission.”
 - <http://www.technologyreview.com/articles/garfinkel1203.asp?p=1>
- In Britain, the Television Licensing Authority can get a warrant, always granted by the court, to break in and search a residence.
 - <http://www.marmalade.net/lime/appleyard.html>

Getting worried yet?

- LexisNexis Anti-Money Laundering Solutions
 - <http://www.lexisnexis.com/antimoneylaundering/>
- “Question about flight simulator brings visit from police”
 - <http://forum.defcon.org/showthread.php?t=3080>
- “Careful: The FB-Eye may be watching” – Reading the wrong thing in public can get you in trouble
 - <http://atlanta.creativeloafing.com/2003-07-17/rant.html>
- “Employee computer crime on the rise” – always worry about insiders
 - http://www.atarimagazines.com/creative/v11n6/6_Employee_computer_crime_o.php
- “States new technology gathers information to find tax cheats. By linking to databases, individuals can be profiled”
 - <http://yro.slashdot.org/yro/04/02/17/1729251.shtml>

Getting worried yet?

- “Colleges leaking confidential data, Students compromised by Internet intrusions” by Tanya Schevitz, April 5, 2004
 - <http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2004/04/05/MNGGP60LNV1.DTL>
- “Privacy pressure, airlines and hotels face customer concerns arising from anti-terrorism efforts” by Tony Kontzer, March 22, 2004
 - <http://www.informationweek.com/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=18401079>
- “Online fraud, I.D. theft soars” by Kevin Poulsen, January 23, 2004
<http://www.securityfocus.com/news/7897>
- “On the Move: Keeping tabs on drivers of rental cars” by Christopher Elliott January 19, 2004
<http://www.iht.com/articles/125614.html>
- “Government awards Tripp almost \$600K” [for leaking information from her government background investigation]
<http://www.cnn.com/2003/LAW/11/03/linda.tripp/index.html>

Still not worried?

“Managers of Cherry Creek Shopping Center often traverse its parking lots to jot down license plate numbers. Using a third-party vendor hired by the mall’s corporate office, they match the plate numbers with databases to identify the ZIP codes – and likely demographics – of their shoppers in aggregate. Individuals weren’t identified”.

<http://www.denverpost.com/Stories/0,1413,36%257E33%257E2208233,00.html?search=filter>

The bright side

- “Florida’s public record law provides for situations where revealing personal information could endanger an individual”
<http://www.heraldtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2003402080446>
- It still can be done, well to a point: “...and to avoid being found, they did not use their cell phones or credit cards” in “Missing students found at Disney World” August 11, 2003
<http://www.cnn.com/2003/US/08/09/missing.students.found/index.html>
- There are other people who care (like a privacy support group). Go to the reader questions: <http://www.howtobeinvisible.com>
- “In Canada, privacy seen as good business” (May 24, 2004)
<http://www.e-commercealert.com/article630.html>

Resources

- *How to be Invisible* by J.J. Luna. St. Martins Press 2000. Revised edition published March 2004.
- Electronic Frontier Foundation <http://www.eff.org>
- SANS Privacy Bites: <http://www.sans.org/newsletters/privacybits/>
- Big 3 Credit companies: Equifax <http://www.equifax.com>, Experian <http://www.experian.com> TransUnion <http://www.transunion.com>
- -> There is a 4th: Innovis <http://www.innovis.com>
- More on opting out: <http://www.junkbusters.com>
- “How to disappear”, <http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/10.07/start.html?pg=14>
- “Living without an SSN” by Lucky225. *2600 Magazine* Winter 2003-2004 pg 16
- *The Art of the Steal* by Frank Abagnale (Broadway Books, 2001).

Resources

- Unique ID, The Numbers that control your life
<http://www.highprogrammer.com/alan/numbers>
- Bypass compulsory web registration, generates userids/passwds
<http://bugmenot.com>
- The SWIPE Toolkit, collection of tools showing personal info collection in US <http://www.turbulence.org/Works/swipe/main.html>
- Sharing Your Personal Information: It's Your Choice
<http://www.ftc.gov/privacy/protect.htm>
- End Stalking in America, Inc <http://esia.net>

Deeper reading

- “Privacy and Deviance.” A paper by HP research on how and why people decide to move their information from private to public sphere. <http://www.hpl.hp.com/research/idl/papers/deviance/>
- “Privacy, Economics, and Price Discrimination on the Internet” by Andrew Odlyzko
<http://www.dtc.umn.edu/~odlyzko/doc/networks.html>
- “Homeland Security – Airline Passenger Risk Assessment - Torch Concepts” JetBlue Data Presentation to TSA
<http://www.aclu.org/Privacy/Privacy.cfm?ID=13686&c=40>
- “Federal Trade Commission – Identity Theft Survey Report” September 2003 <http://www.ftc.gov/os/2003/09/synovaterreport.pdf>
- “Bank Secrecy Act/Anti-Money Laundering Comptroller’s Handbook” September 2002
<http://www.occ.treas.gov/handbook/compliance.htm>

Thoughts on the future

- RFID – tracking the person, tracking the belongings.
- MATRIX, Patriot Act II, Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal 2004 (see section 374 of the act), “The Bastard Children of Total Information Awareness”¹
- Genetic Testing
- Biometrics
- Data becoming omnipresent with outsourcing
- More information collected, and that information will live forever: “there are no plans to destroy this data in the foreseeable future”²

¹<http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/12.02/start.html?pg=4>

²<http://www.guardian.co.uk/print/0,3858,4286375-103572,00.html>

Closing thoughts

“The fundamental human right of privacy in Canada is under assault as never before. Unless the government of Canada is quickly dissuaded from its present course by Parliamentary action and public insistence, we are on a path that may well lead to the permanent loss not only of privacy rights that we take for granted but also of important elements of freedom as we now know it.”

George Radwanski, Privacy Commissioner of Canada.

“Annual Report to Parliament” January 2003

http://www.privcom.gc.ca/information/ar/02_04_10_e.asp