

PRIVACY

Reasons for privacy:

- Develop our sense of self
- Shield us from the power of the government

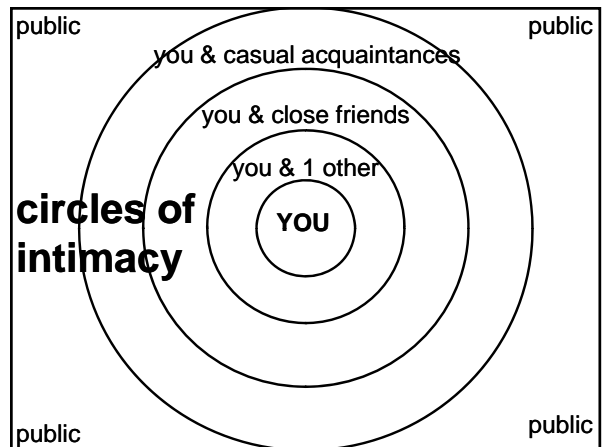
Secrecy vs. Privacy

Secrecy: Intentionally preventing others from obtaining, using or sharing information.

Information is kept from any public view.

Privacy: Controlling who has access to information.

Individual determines what private information becomes public and who that public is.



Legal protections for privacy

- intrusion
- commercial appropriation
- disclosure of embarrassing facts
- False light

● intrusion:

Physically invading a person's solitude

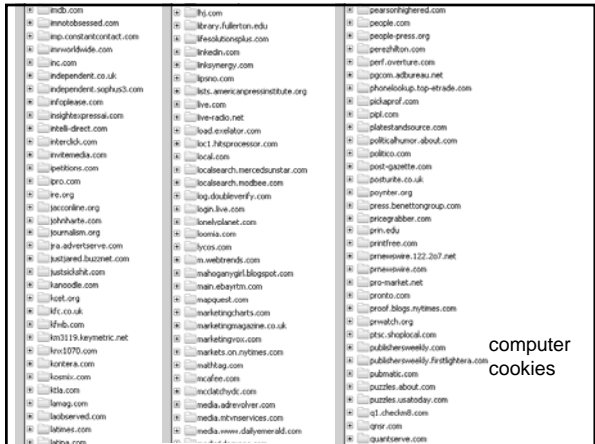
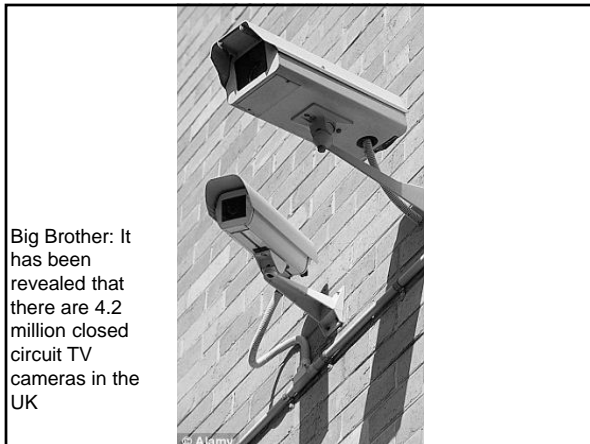
- commercial appropriation:
using someone's name or image without permission

- disclosure of embarrassing facts:
things about you that true but nobody's business

- False light:
misrepresenting people to the public in a way that damages their reputation

Reasons that privacy is invaded:

- Public safety and national security
- Advertising
- Newsworthiness
 - > The need to know
 - > The right to know
 - > The desire to know



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The right to know

vs. need to know

vs. want to know



Privacy Checklist

1. How important is the information I am seeking? Does the public have a right to know? A need to know? Merely a desire to know?
2. What level of protection do individuals involved in the story deserve? How much harm might they receive? Are they involved in the news event by choice or by happenstance?

3. How would I feel if I were being subjected to the same scrutiny?
4. Do I know the facts of the story well enough? What else do I need to know?
5. What can I do to minimize the privacy invasion and the harm? Can I broaden the focus of the story by including more "victims," thereby minimizing harm to a select few? Can I postpone the story without significantly jeopardizing information to the public?

6. In making the decision to invade privacy, do I need to talk to others in order to gain more perspective?
7. Should I be focusing more on the system failure and the big-issue picture as opposed to focusing intensely on individuals?
8. Can I clearly and fully justify my thinking and decision? To those directly affected? To the public?