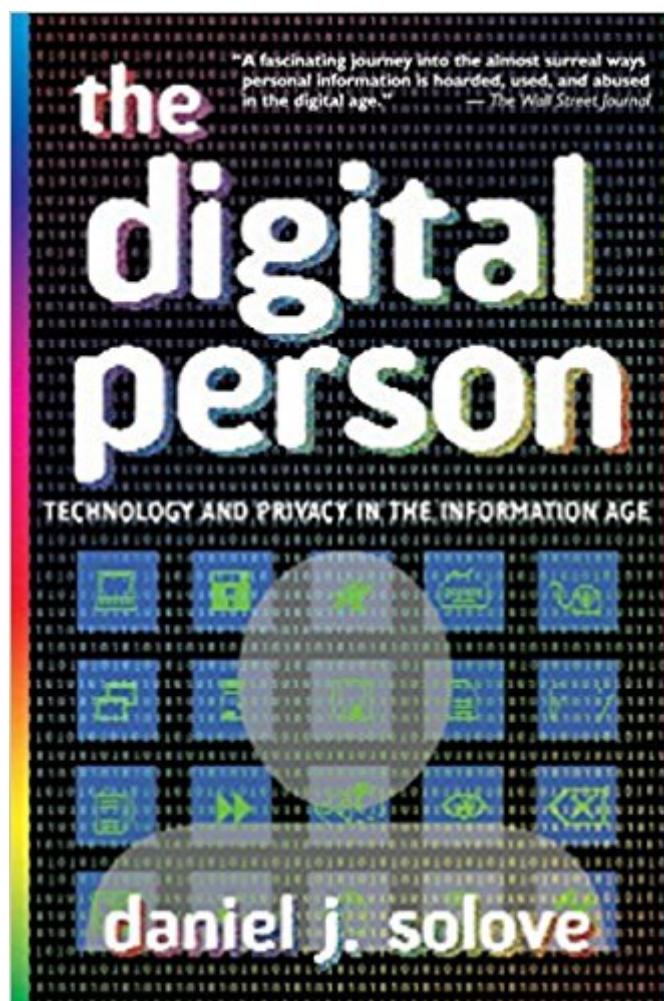The book was found

The Digital Person: Technology And Privacy In The Information Age

Synopsis

Seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day, electronic databases are compiling information about you. As you surf the Internet, an unprecedented amount of your personal information is being recorded and preserved forever in the digital minds of computers. For each individual, these databases create a profile of activities, interests, and preferences used to investigate backgrounds, check credit, market products, and make a wide variety of decisions affecting our lives. The creation and use of these databasesÃ¢â •which Daniel J. Solove calls Ã¢â Å"digital dossiersÃ¢â Å•Ã¢â •has thus far gone largely unchecked. In this startling account of new technologies for gathering and using personal data, Solove explains why digital dossiers pose a grave threat to our privacy.The Digital Person sets forth a new understanding of what privacy is, one that is appropriate for the new challenges of the Information Age. Solove recommends how the law can be reformed to simultaneously protect our privacy and allow us to enjoy the benefits of our increasingly digital world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When one surveys the myriad ways that personal information can be snatched from individuals through electronic means, it’s easy to feel gloomy about the prospects for privacy in the Information Age—which is why this book is so refreshing. Although it sometimes reads like a legal brief—author Solove (Information Privacy Law) is an associate law professor at George Washington University Law School—it offers insights into the current state of privacy in America and some intriguing prescriptions for altering that state of affairs. Contrary to popular

notions that "Big Brother" is destroying privacy, Solove argues that the withering of privacy can, in large measure, be attributed to indifference. "The privacy problem created by the use of databases stems from an often careless and unconcerned bureaucratic process," he writes, "one that has little judgment or accountability.... We are not just heading toward a world of Big Brother, but to a world that is beginning to resemble Kafka's vision in The Trial." Solove contends that existing methods for protecting privacy fail to fulfill their purpose because they depend on individuals remedying situations that they don't even know exist. Solove's call for systematic change is compelling, as are his ideas for revamping society's information-gathering architecture. "Changing our relationships with bureaucracies can't be achieved through isolated lawsuits," he argues. "We need a regulatory system, akin to the ones we have in place regulating our food, environment, and financial institutions." Anyone concerned with preserving privacy against technology's growing intrusiveness will find this book enlightening.

Ã¢ ¬Å"Anyone concerned with preserving privacy against technology's growing intrusiveness will find this book enlightening.Ã¢ ¬Â•-Publishers WeeklyÃ¢ ¬Å"Solove ultimately is no Ã¢ ¬Ëœchicken littleÃ¢ ¬â„¢ but an idealist of the best sort, concluding a positive role for law in the problem of privacy. Whether the world will leave Orwell and Kafka behind and evolve into Solove remains to be seen, but herein is offered a plan to achieve that objective.Ã¢ ¬Â•-Journal of Information Ethics Ã¢ ¬Å"This comprehensive analysis of privacy in the information age challenges traditional assumptions that breeches of privacy through the development of electronic dossiers involve the invasion of oneÃ¢ ¬â„¢s private space.Ã¢ ¬Â•-ChoiceÃ¢ ¬Å"Daniel Solove is one of the most energetic and creative scholars writing about privacy today. The Digital Person is an important contribution to the privacy debate, and SoloveÃ¢ ¬â„¢s discussion of the harms of what he calls 'digital dossiers' is invaluable.Ã¢ ¬Â• -Jeffrey Rosen,author of The Unwanted Gaze and The Naked CrowdÃ¢ ¬Å"Solove . . . truly understands the intersection of law and technology. This book is a fascinating journey into the almost surreal ways personal information is hoarded, used, and abused in the digital age.Ã¢ ¬Â•-The Wall Street JournalÃ¢ ¬Å"The Digital Person challenges the existing ways in which law and legal theory approach the social, political, and legal implications of the collection and use of personal information in computer databases. SoloveÃ¢ ¬â„¢s book is ambitious, and represents the most important publication in the field of information privacy law for some years.Ã¢ ¬Â•-Georgetown Law Journal

There are some great reviews below, so I will not repeat them. is getting to the point now where it is almost essential to read all of the reviews as a pre-cursor to buying and reading the book.This book was instrumental, after I bought it, in pointing me to the preceding work by David Brin, "The Transparent Society," and I found it useful to read that book first.The two key points in this book that make it a notable contribution are:1. Best available review of applicable laws; and2. Superb expansive discussion of privacy violation that emerge not just for deliberate abuse and invasion, but from "careless unconcerned bureaucracies" with little judgement or accountability.IDEA for : connect with the Institute of Scientific Information, and start showing us new books that cite existing books. I would love to be able to "fast forward" from this book to the "best in class" books that cite this book so that I could buy the best most recent book (I buy and read in threes on most topics). has become a major intellectual force, and is my starting point for every issue (Google is for fast looks, is for deep looks; I hope that one day they merge with Wikipedia).

This book brings up some great points about privacy in an increasingly digital age, but solove latches onto the term "dossier" which is accurate but rubbed me the wrong way. Maybe because it suggests that companies are compiling information on inviduals for reasons duplicitous, when really the motivation is to make money ... often less emotional.Also, Solove is extremely paranoid about "databases". True, databases make information storage and retrieval efficient and the proliferation of affordable storage means companies can collect more and more, thus making more and more dollars and contributing to the problem.The issue here really is the companies that hold this data ... and the fact that individuals have no real way to audit the information they hold. That would be a solution worth pursuing. Databases are here to stay, like them or not.

"The Digital Person: Technology & Privacy in the Information Age," Daniel Solove, NY, NYUniv. Press, 2004 ISBN: 0-8147-9846-2, HC, 228/283 (Notes 37 pg., Index 16 pg.), 9 1/4" x 6 1/8"Assoc. Prof. of Law & author of "Information Privacy Law", Solove thoroughly covers the history, current status & provides some law recommendations for coping better with rapidly changing practices of information gathering, its useage & its intrusions into our privacy.Historically traceable, perhaps, to 1st U.S. census asking 4 questions in 1790, & hundreds of queries by 1890 including those on disease, infirmities & wages, data sorting was processed by punch card readers (forerunner of IBM). The "New Deal" Social Security System of 1935 assigned 9-digit U.S. citizen identifier numbers (SSNs) & useage of SSNs popularized with computerization in 1960's by both private &

governmental (city/state/federal) sectors but provoked early concerns on privacy invasions.Noting 'information breeds information', data analysis & number crunching fostered creation of 'digital dossiers' on millions of citizens via accumulation/assemblage of 'bits of information' from private, public & governmental sources. The privacy invasion affects our freedom, diminishes our power & allows for abuses including identity theft, blacklisting, profiling, self-incrimination & serious data errors (the latter which may be impossible to exterpate). Databases, some 2000 at federal level, are valuable comodities bought, sold, & traded between the private, public & governmental sectors including DMV, SS, PE's credit-card issuers, banks, websites, employers, etc. for spying, credit checks, targeted marketing, & diverse legal/illegal purposes, etc. Several paradigms including "Big Brother" of "1984" are discussed in detail. Solove discusses stealth data collections relative to the 1st, 4th & 5th Ammendments, providing ample case law citations & recommendations for reducing one's own vulnerability to identify theft, & he confides of perceived, needed changes in current laws. An important read (not overtly technical but perhaps wordy or repetitious in sections) about what appears purposely not taught ouside of law school. This week several states announced that video (CCTV) surveillance of all business will be mandated - with specific mention of City of Santa Monica amongst the first & some vague rumors that CCTV may be proposed for all dwellings.

Very informative, extensively researched, well cited... not fun to read. I would describe it as text book reading. Solove spends pages and pages citing examples of each topic. If you're interested in databases and the privacy implications of data collection this book will tell you everything you want to know and more... but if you want a pleasurable read I would NOT suggest this book.

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