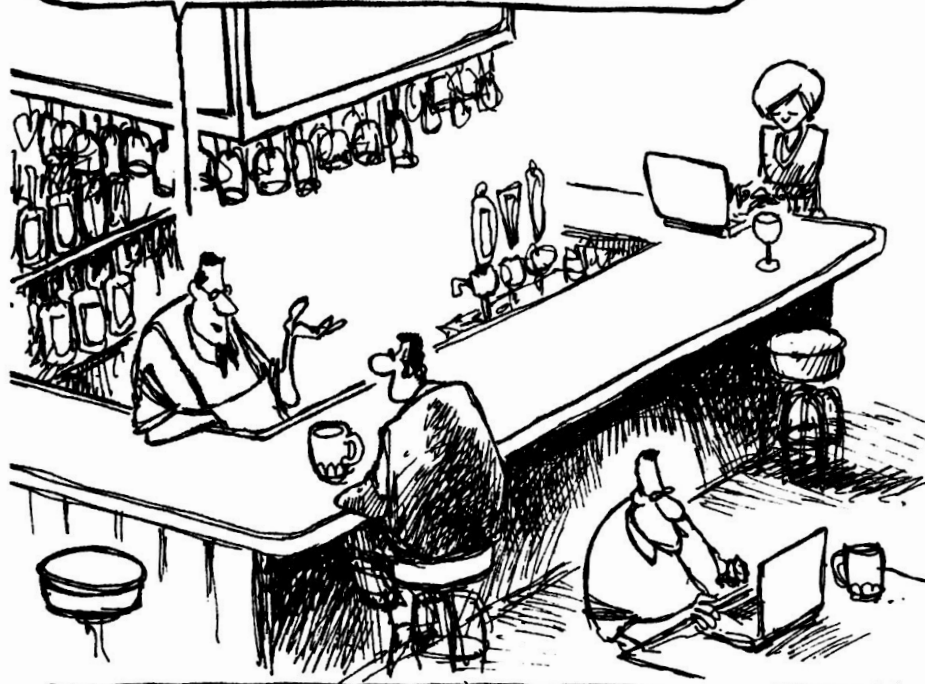




# CSCI 245 Life, Computers, and Everything

## Information Privacy

SHE SAYS THANKS FOR THE DRINK  
AND WILL DECIDE ON WHETHER TO  
TALK TO YOU OR NOT AS SOON AS  
SHE FINISHES GOOGLING YOU



THE TOO MUCH INFORMATION AGE



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“You have zero privacy  
anyway. Get over it.”

Scott McNealy

# Is there a natural right to **privacy**?

- Privacy rights evolve from property rights: the **home is a castle** argument.
- Warren & Brandeis: “political, social, and economic changes demand recognition for new kinds of legal rights.”
- Thomson: “every privacy right violation is a violation of another right.”

**Not a whole lot of agreement here....**

Privacy is a **prudential right**

“Rational agents agree to recognize some privacy rights because granting these rights is **beneficial to society.**”

# What is **privacy**?

- A **zone of inaccessibility** that surrounds a person.
- The person has full control over what constitutes that zone.

# Why **privacy**?

"... an important buffer that gives us space to **develop an identity that is somewhat separate from the surveillance, judgment, and values of our society and culture.** Privacy is crucial for helping us manage all of these pressures -- pressures that shape the type of person we are -- and for 'creating spaces for play and the work of self-[development].'"

<http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2013/02/why-does-privacy-matter-one-scholars-answer/273521/>

# Why do we need to discuss this?

- New media of communication are constantly being created.



# Why do we need to discuss this?

- The legal system is always playing catch up - see [this article](#). Rights on e-mail are protected, but how about Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp, Telegram, ... ?

# Why do we need to discuss this?

- We need to be able to make ethical judgments in the absence of legislation and in the presence of inadequate legislation.

# How much do you share?

Make a list of the technologies you use which  
may be collecting/sharing information about you.

# Why do you share that much?

For each technology you listed, explain how you are rewarded for the information you shared...  
or *what you are getting in return.*

# No **privacy**

- A person's dignity is violated.
- No **moral capital** for people to develop close personal relationships.
- People cannot “be **autonomous moral agents** to develop healthy personal relationships and act as **free citizens** in a democratic society.” (Quinn 235)

# The privacy ladder

spouse/partner

“religious liaison”

siblings

parents

children

friends

in-laws

coworkers

neighbors

marketers

employers

government

news media

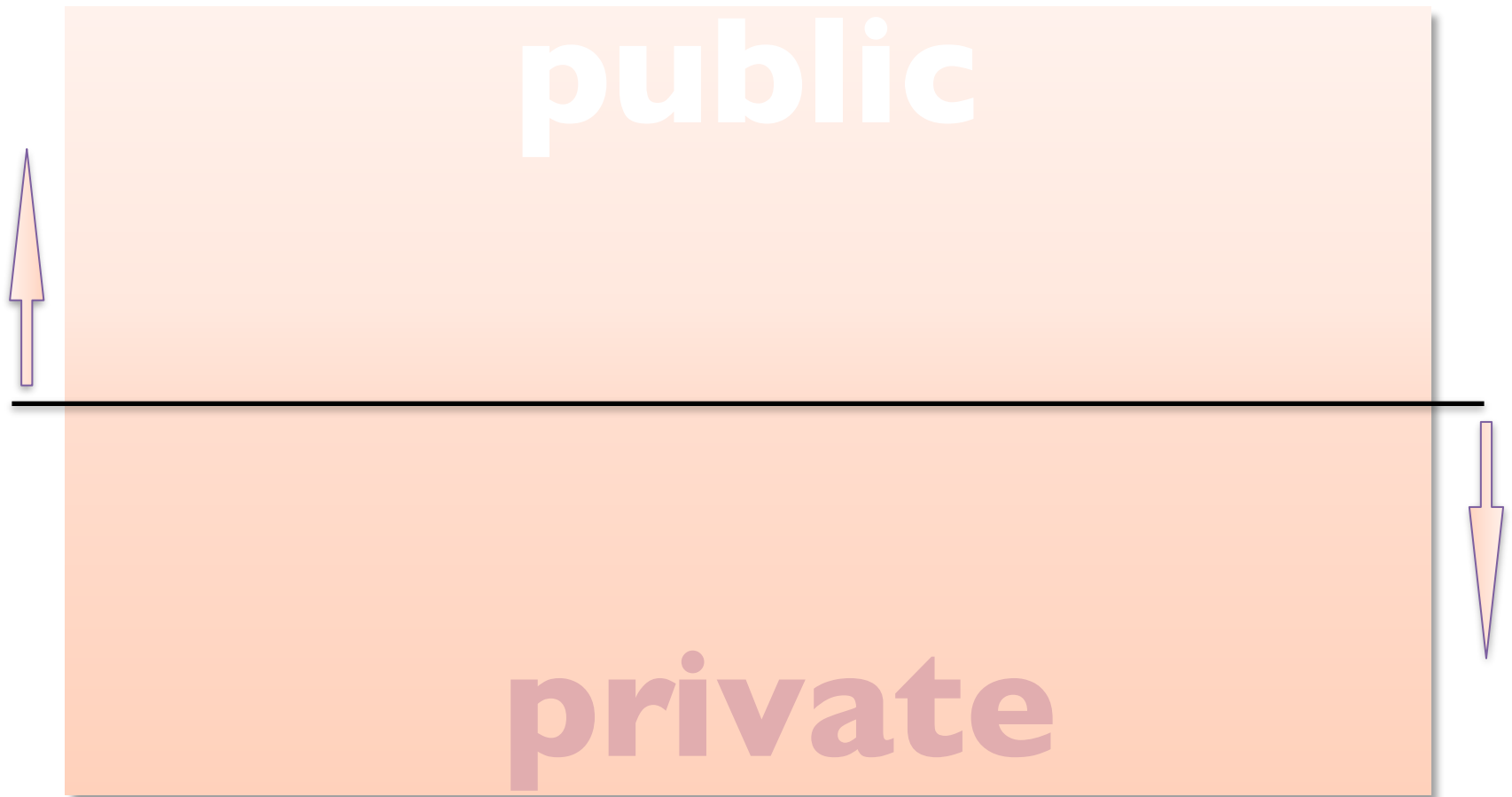
potential rivals



# Too much **privacy**

- People may take advantage to carry out illegal or immoral activities.
- Puts undue burden on those closest to you.
- One's deeds are outside the sphere of knowledge of those who may ascertain their morality. Society loses the **“feedback loop.”**
- Potential harm to society.

# The **BIG** question





# Privacy today

- Whereas people used to live with parents until marriage, many live autonomously today.
- This leads to a lot of freedom and privacy.

# Privacy today

- Do we now have more “space” to be private?

# Privacy today

- Does our use of technology help us connect with people?
- Does our use of technology take away the privacy that we need and want?

# Case Study

The app EasyTaxi allows customers to provide information on the quality of server provided by their driver.



Kantian  
Analysis

Rule  
Utilitarian  
Analysis

Virtue  
Ethics  
Analysis

Social  
Contract  
Theory  
Analysis

# Case Study

A couple uses surveillance technology to monitor their nanny secretly while they are away from their home.

Kantian  
Analysis

Rule  
Utilitarian  
Analysis

Virtue  
Ethics  
Analysis

Social  
Contract  
Theory  
Analysis