

# Parents, teenagers, and student privacy issues

Rebecca Balebako

With thanks to Manya Sleeper

October 21, 2014

8-533 / 8-733 / 19-608 / 95-818:  
*Privacy Policy, Law, and Technology*

Carnegie  
Mellon  
University

CyLab



Engineering &  
Public Policy



# Today's Agenda

- Quiz
- Lecture on teens and privacy
  - Issues specific to teens and parents
  - Issues specific to schools
  - Briefly discuss COPPA, CIPA, FERPA
- Group discussion

# Children and teenagers sharing on the internet

- 95% of teens (12-17) use the Internet; 8/10 of these use social media (Madden et al.)
- 13-17 year olds can now post “Publicly” on Facebook (Facebook)

Kang. “For young children, mobile devices such as tablets, smartphones now a mainstay.” [http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/technology/survey-for-young-children-mobile-devices-such-as-tablets-smartphones-now-a-mainstay/2013/10/27/7e386f3c-3f1f-11e3-a624-41d661b0bb78\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/technology/survey-for-young-children-mobile-devices-such-as-tablets-smartphones-now-a-mainstay/2013/10/27/7e386f3c-3f1f-11e3-a624-41d661b0bb78_story.html)

Madden et al. “Teens, Social Media, and Privacy.” Pew Internet.

“Teens now start with ‘Friends’ privacy for new accounts; adding the option to share publicly.” <http://newsroom.fb.com/News/737/Teens-Now-Start-With-Friends-Privacy-for-New-Accounts-Adding-the-Option-to-Share-Publicly>

# Issues unique to children/teen privacy

- Parents/certain adults have right to monitor teens
- Teens' decision-making capabilities
- Impact of current decisions on their future
- Use of technology in schools

# Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)

- Extra protection for privacy of children under the age of 13
- Require parental permission to collect children's personal data
- Requires websites that are targeted at children to:
  - Have a detailed privacy policy
  - Get parental consent
  - Tell parents about data collected about their children
  - Provide the ability to revoke consent/delete data
  - Limit the amount of data collected for online games/contests
  - Protect “confidentiality, security, and integrity” children's personal information

# Why would parents monitor teens?

- Concerns about safety related to
  - meeting strangers, adults
  - risky activities (e.g. driving, drinking, deliberate risk-taking)
- Concerns about bullying
- Academic performance

# How do parents use technology to monitor their teens?

- Online activity (e.g., monitoring software, filtering software)
- Location (e.g., GPS, cell phone, smart watch)
- Driving behavior (e.g., location, speed, in-car camera)

# Issues around parental monitoring (Czeskis et al.)

- Level of transparency: child's awareness
  - Trust
- Types of information collected
  - Information about friends
- Availability of information? (e.g., to who)
  - Parents, third-parties, schools?
- Monitoring vs maturation



# Privacy issues for schools and students

- Monitoring students' use of technology
  - school-owned technology
  - in school
  - outside of school
- Monitoring social network usage
  - free speech issues
  - bullying prevention/reputation
  - safety etc.)
- Sharing student data
  - some regulation by FERPA
  - required data collection

# Schools: Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)

- Applies to schools/libraries that receive federal funding
- Requires an “Internet safety policy” that blocks/filters images that are:
  - “Obscene”
  - Child pornography
  - “harmful to minors” (if minors have access)
- Must adopt measures to protect minors on the Internet (including sharing too much and accessing harmful materials)

# Case Study on schools and surveillance

- Philadelphia school settled suit for \$610K for remotely turning on camera in school-provided laptops
- Took over 56,000 photos “in a misguided effort to locate missing computers”
- Student found out about surveillance when accused of “improper behavior” by the vice principal based on photo

# Cases of schools and social network monitoring

- Cases of monitoring:
  - Student suspended for threatening to shoot other students on Myspace
  - Students disciplined by school officials for posting lewd Facebook pictures from a slumber party (court ruled Constitutional violation)
- Technology: e.g., Geo Listening – goes through public SNS posts

# Schools: sharing student data

- FERPA allows schools to share student data for core functions (e.g., data management)
- Case study: “Deciding who sees students’ data” NYTimes. Oct. 5, 2013.
  - Colorado school district used inBloom data management system to consolidate/outsource district student databases/records
  - But school district had no policies about who could see data and parents couldn’t opt out
  - In April 2014, inBloom shut down

# Activity

- Goal: develop a privacy policy for the Pittsburgh Public Schools - High Schools only
- Who are the stakeholders?

# Divide into groups of stakeholders

- Students (Assume just teens 13-18 years)
- Parents
- Teachers
- External administrators

# Create a list of your interests

- The privacy policy **should cover**:
  - Online social networks
    - What can be monitored? What can students be disciplined about? What can teachers be disciplined about? Etc.
  - Sharing student information
    - What can be collected? What can be shared? Who can it be shared with? What needs parental consent? (Assume that there is one large-scale database software system used)
    - What about photos of students?
  - Sharing parent information
    - What can be shared? Who can it be shared with?
  - How can students be monitored?
    - In school? Outside of school? When using school laptops? Only on the Internet?
- Come up with your group's perspective for each
- It's fine to **prioritize** (but try to pick the issues that would be most important to your group)



# Come together and come up with a policy

- The privacy policy **should cover:**
  - Online social networks
    - What can be monitored? What can students be disciplined about? What can teachers be disciplined about? Etc.
  - Sharing student information
    - What can be collected? What can be shared? Who can it be shared with? What needs parental consent? (Assume that there is one large-scale database software system used)
    - What about photos of students?
  - Sharing parent information
    - What can be shared? Who can it be shared with?
  - How can students be monitored?
    - In school? Outside of school? When using school laptops? Only on the Internet?
- Now mix up – one person represent each interest – come together and come up with a policy that represents ALL the interests

# Local Teens work on Privacy

- <http://cups.cs.cmu.edu/privacy4teens/Aboutus.html>

# Notes