International Privacy Laws and Cultural Differences

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Engineering & Public Policy



Today's Agenda

- Quiz
- Homework 3 due
- Reading Discussion
- Cultural/Law Privacy Comparison (Togo and USA)
- Share other examples

By the end of class, you should be able to:

- Discuss the cultural norms around privacy in several societies
- Discuss the intersection of privacy and technology in several societies
- Discuss the intersection of law and policy with privacy in several societies

China's Data Privacy Regulations: A Tricky Tradeoff between ICT's Productive Utilization and Cybercontrol

- Cyber control prioritized over consumer privacy
- "Strong state and weak civil society"
- Gap between laws and enforcement

Privacy advocates in the US

the PRIVACY COALITION





Privacy Rights Clearinghouse

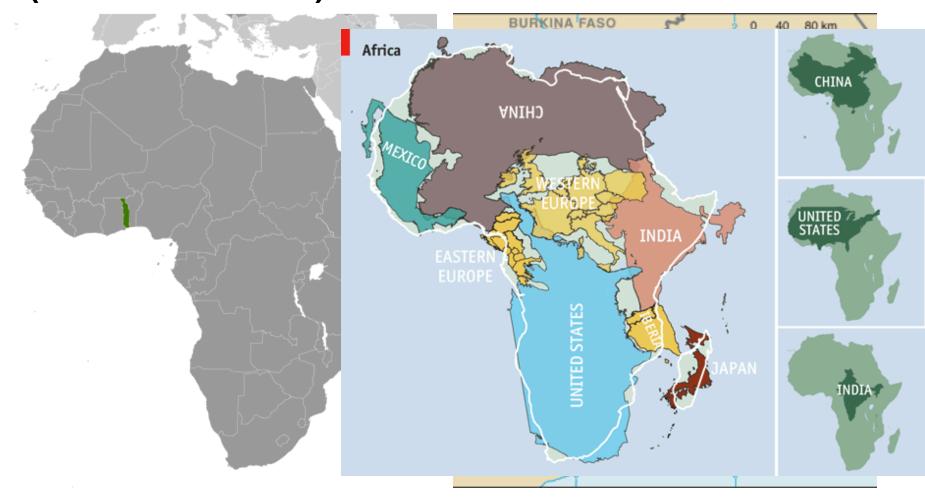
Empowering Consumers. Protecting Privacy.







Personal observations of Togo (2007-2009)



Togo has a weak civil society

- A young country (median age 19.6)
- A diverse country
 - 36 ethnicities
 - Christian, Muslim, indigenous beliefs
- 25% and 2.5% of urban population have 'improved sanitation access'
- 60% literate

Data Protection Laws in Togo

- None found
- Member of The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- 2010 Supplementary Act on Data Protection

Cultural norms of privacy: Knees are private



Nursing is not private



Dress code is relaxed for children



Personal space may also be a bit different.



Norms and society are changing.



Communication and news typically through the radio or TV



Internet access at home is rare



Internet access typically at cyber cafes



Phone "Cabine" - the community phone



Mobile phones are increasingly common, but are shared



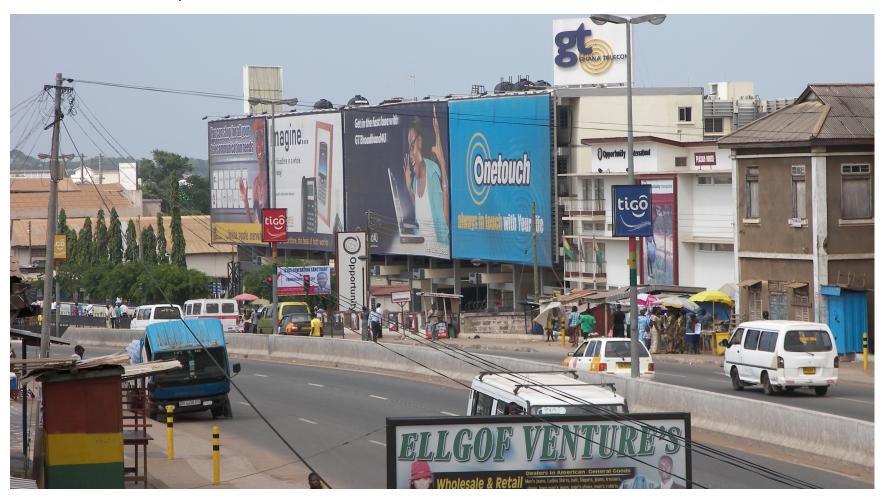
Togo does not have competitive mobile carriers



Privacy implications for m-health projects?

- SMS notification to take ARVs for HIV+
- Contact tracing used for Ebola in Nigeria and Liberia

Africa is not a country: Accra, Ghana is different



Class Discussion

- Small groups to share your responses to HW3
- Then share as a class

