International Privacy Laws and Cultural Differences

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8-533 / 8-733 / 19-608 / 95-818: Privacy Policy, Law, and Technology
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
Personal observations of Togo (2007-2009)

Images from CIA Factbook:
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

CIA Factbook Accessed Sept 25, 2014
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+ patients
- 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