

Journal Entry # 12

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I read the article “11 Illegal Things You Unknowingly Do on the Internet,” expecting to be surprised, but I actually wasn’t too surprised about the activities covered. The first two illegal activities covered were the using of unofficial streaming site and torrent services; while very popular I feel that most people likely are aware that piracy is illegal but the part they are likely unaware of is how dangerous using those kinds of sites can be, the article mentions that many of those services don’t just stop at steal movies and shows but also target user data on the backend. The article goes on to talk about things like faking your identity, posting people’s personal information online without permission, stealing other people’s internet, things that most people would recognize as crimes in one form or another. The thing on this list that I actually didn’t expect to be illegal was collecting data on an individual under the age of 13; it makes sense that collecting personal data on a child would be illegal, but I find it interesting that there is a specific age cutoff. It seems like your data is being collected through every interaction you have online, so it makes me wonder how it is they are verifying a user's age and if and how they are actually enforcing this law. I personally believe that the kind of data collection we see today should be illegal regardless of the age of the user, but it’s at least nice to see there is some protection for the kids surfing the internet. The article finishes up with a few tips on how to help ensure you aren’t accidentally breaking any laws and generally help protect you as you browse. The authors suggest using incognito browsing and using a VPN to protect your location data and web activity, ensuring your passwords are unique, and lastly, limiting the information you share online. I think overall this article was pretty interesting and could be useful information for someone looking to develop safer browsing habits.

Work Cited

Slynychuk, A. (2026, January 4). *What illegal things are you unwittingly doing on the internet?*

Clario. <https://clario.co/blog/illegal-things-you-do-online/>