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Freedom of Expression and Privacy in the Digital World

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I use several different online platforms to communicate and share information, including X formerly known as Twitter, Reddit, and Discord. I trust these platforms to different degrees based on their transparency, community guidelines, the information on the platform, and data security measures. For example, I use X often for the sports discussions and NFL talk, especially around this time since it is the off season and it is exciting to see what superstars go to new teams, which will start discussion in spaces for a diverse audience to talk about different teams and sport talk. Reddit is useful for more in-depth discussions in specific communities, especially for myself since I like the gaming community and some individuals or even the big corporations post more in-depth details about upcoming events, updates, and fixes coming into the games I play like Madden25, NCAA25, and NBA2K25. Discord is my preferred platform for its different ways to have different cords for conversation especially for gaming and the controls for it are very simple. Also, discord has encryption features for private conversations in direct messages.

X moderates content based on its Terms of Service and Hateful Conduct Policy. According to (“Hateful Conduct”) the platform X enforces rules against hate speech, harassment, misinformation, and illegal content. Their moderation approach includes a

combination of automated systems and human review teams. Users can report content, and X may take action such as content removal, suspensions, and being banned from the app forever.

In my personal experience, X moderation is very inconsistent. While some content that violates the rules and policies is removed very quickly, other harmful content remains on the app. For example, recently the legendary artist Kanye West was ranting on X talking a lot of stuff and spewing anti-jewish hatred, as stated by (D'Zurilla) this is very dangerous, because Kanye West has a very big following and what impact his influence can have on his followers to spew this same rhetoric and make them think its okay because Kanye is doing it and not suffering any consequences. Kanye West tweets didn't get taken down immediately; they were up for a little while. Which has caused the platform to be criticized for how inconsistent enforcement on the rules, where some high-profile figures like Kanye West seem to receive more grace or leniency than others. The recent example of Kanye West shows the inconsistencies makes it difficult to trust that the moderation policy is applied fairly.

I share personal information with my bank, including my name, address, Social Security number, and financial transaction history. This information is necessary for account verification, updates about banking changes, spending notifications, billing notifications, loan applications, and secure online banking. According to ("Credit Union Privacy Policy") they follow security measures that comply with federal law . They also limit access to personal information to authorized employees, for non affiliates to market to you, and for affiliates everyday business purposes. After looking at my bank's policy, I believe my bank takes reasonable steps to protect

my data. Data breaches still occur in the banking industry, which raises concerns about the effectiveness of these security measures.

My biggest concern is the collection of my personal data across multiple platforms. Companies, advertisers, and even data brokers collect information from social media, search engines, and online purchases to create detailed marketing profiles of individuals. This raises privacy concerns because I have little control over how my data is being used or shared. In this article by (Melendez and Pasternack) it shows and highlights how your personal data is constantly being bought and sold by hundreds of companies. Another article by (Veliz) discusses how AI is predicting things about humans using different algorithms, which is scary because if these systems can do that they can use a lot of the things we view on social media or anything and market to us or predict human behavior. These concerns make me question how much privacy I have online, how much of my data is being collected, and how my personal data is being used. While I do take the right steps of purchasing McAfee security for my electronic devices and on every platform I adjust privacy settings, I still worry that my data is being collected into a digital profile that could be used for advertising or identity theft.

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