

Calvin Harris  


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August 11, 2018

Federal Trade Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Suite CC-5610 (Annex C)  
Washington, DC 20580

Re: Competition and Consumer Protection in the 21st Century Hearing, Project Number P181201

Since you are taking the time to look into issues with new technologies, I want you to know that I want my personal information to stay personal. In addition to the recent Equifax and Facebook security breaches, I have been put at risk by T-Mobile and even the state of South Carolina! Obviously, they cannot keep my information safe, so I want less of it to be collected. These companies need to be held accountable for any questionable business practices, and be required to earn back our trust.

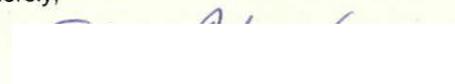
The major online players like Google, YouTube and Facebook are all guilty of collecting and selling our privation information. It is not a transparent process, we don't know what data they are collecting, and it really should be my decision to share any of it. My wife uses Facebook, we are big Amazon users and let's face it everyone uses Google! The problem is that in order to use any of these, you have to give your consent to their Terms & Conditions. Nobody reads all of it anymore because no one can understand it. It is purposely written that way, and once I click OK the company now feels they have the right to take and sell all my information. If Terms & Conditions are to mean anything, it should be much clearer and any data collected should be on an individual "opt-in" for each item, not an automatic blanket "yes".

The biggest issue with gathering my data is the lack of security. Facebook now admits that user data was breached during the 2018 election, yet how are we compensated? After the T-Mobile and state of South Carolina breaches, I was given free credit monitoring, but that does not retrieve the information that had already been let out. It is very uncomfortable knowing that my information is out there somewhere. While we are told to routinely change our passwords and are given all these tips on staying safe, it doesn't seem that Facebook and Google etc., are following their own advice.

As these companies become larger with less competition, monopolistic behaviors are cropping up. YouTube's removal of certain political views amounts to suppression of free speech. I do admit to having a gray line because I don't think suppressing hate speech is bad, but blocking someone for simply presenting a differing view cannot be tolerated. YouTube needs to bear the consequences for this illegal practice, as does Facebook for their lack of security and Google for their illegal tracking. Yes, the 911 service must have access to tracking someone's phone, but simply tracking users for no reason, who have specifically turned off that feature, is going overboard.

I don't want my personal information sold to anyone for any reason. They make enough money off of ads. Their anti-competitive behavior needs to be stopped, and healthy competition promoted. That generally results in better prices, better customer service, and more opportunities. Please remember the actual people behind each set of data. Our information should be ours to decide how to share. And in no way should companies be allowed to make money selling us.

Sincerely,

  
Calvin Harris