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Privacy and the Protection of Personal Data

Gerrit-Jan Zwenne Leiden Law Course – 13 March 2009





roadmap

- backgrounds
 - what is privacy anyway?
- European Privacy Law
 - EU Privacy Directive (95/46)
 - rules for the processing of personal data
 - when may 'controllers' process personal data..?
 - what rights have 'data subjects'...?
- \$p@m!
 - EU Privacy e-Comms Directive (2002/58)
 - rules for unsolicited communications



to define the province of privacy distinctly is impossib'

James Fitzjames Steph

different contexts the conce privacy elusive and ill-defined

Posner 1978

the most striking thing about the right to privacy is that nobody coome to have any of what it is privacy means

Thompson 1975

Berman & Mulligan 1999

many things to

many people and

different things in

news about at 84 percent ncerned about privacy. the bad news is that we do not know what we mean

Branscomb 1994



the right to be left alone

Samual D. Warren & Louis D. Brandeis 1890

viewed in terms of the relation of the individual to social participation, privacy is the voluntary and temporary withdrawal of a person from the general society through physical or psychological me ans, either in a state of solitude or small group intimacy or, when among larger groups, in a condition of anonymity or reserve

the claim of individuals, groups or institutions to determine for themselves when, how and to what extent information about themselves is communicated to others

Alan F Westin 1967



you have zero privacy anyway

get over it

Scott McNealy CeO Sun Microsystems



privacy....

personal-freedom-and-integrity privacy protect-me-against-authorities privacy *my-home-is-my-castle* privacy pillow-talk and intimate behavior privacy hidden-truth privacy don't-disturb-me privacy don't-intrude-on-me privacy don't-abuse-me privacy hiding-crime privacy big-brother privacy personal-data-protection privacy institutional-data-protection privacy



Privacy

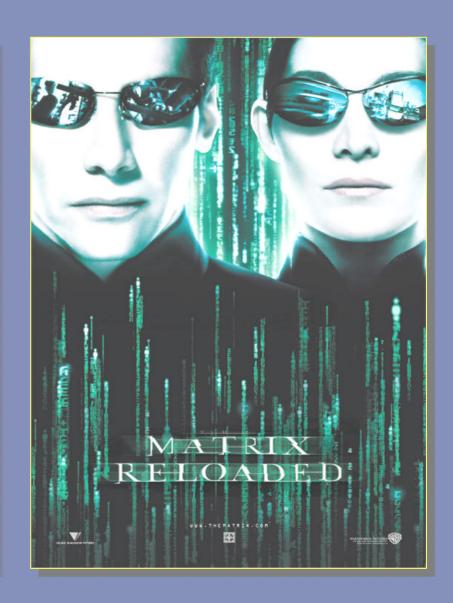
- relational privacy
 - the right to be left alone
 - the inviolability of the home
- secrecy of communications
 - claims with respect to the secrecy of the medium
 - correspondence
 - telephone
- informational privacy
 - protection of personal data

Westin
"claims of
individuals to..."

Westin:
"viewed in
terms of the
relation..."



paper...





informational privacy... why?

more data collected, generated and processed using computers and networks

loss of implicit technical safeguards

need for explicit legal safeguards

power to the individual!



European Privacy Law

Directive 95/46/EC *OJ*. L281, 23.11.1995, p. 31 – 50



object of the directive

- protection of fundamental rights and freedoms of natural persons
 - and in particular their right to privacy with respect to the processing of personal data
- no restrictions for the free flow of personal data between Member States
 - for reasons connected with the protection of these rights



harmonisation... why?

'evasion' of national data protection acts via telecoms

1970

national data protection acts different levels

of protection

incentive for companies to process their data in member state with lowest level of protection

member states react

ban the transfer of personal data to countries without 'adequate protection'

harmonisation is the solution!



processing personal data

personal data

'data subject'

- any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person
 - contact details, e-mail, subscription data, mileage, etc.
- processing

'controller'

- any operation or set of operations which is performed upon personal data, whether or not by automatic means
 - collection, recording, organization, storage, adaptation or alteration, retrieval, consultation, use, disclosure by transmission, dissemination or otherwise making available, alignment or combination, blocking, erasure or destruction, etc.



applicabilty

- processing of personal data
 - wholly or partly by automatic means
 - data which form part of a filing system or are intended to form part of a filing system
- exemptions
 - processing by a natural person in the course of a purely personal or household activity
 - specific acts
 - police files, municipal data, voting registers, etc.

structured set of personal data which are accessible according to specific criteria, whether centralized, decentralized or dispersed on a functional or geographical basis





journalistic artistic literary purposes

 limited applicability on processing for journalistic, artistic or literary purposes

newspapers, television, radio, magazines, etc. websites..?

- material rules for processing do apply
 - fair and lawful processing
 - processing grounds
 - collection for specific purposes
 - etc.
- but no notification requirements



establishment in the Netherlands

 processing carried out in the context of the activities of an establishment of the controller in the Netherlands



does the DPA also apply if the data are processed abroad, and/or if the data do not relate to Dutch citizens?



no establishment in the EU

- use is made of equipment,
 automated or otherwise, situated in the Netherlands
 - unless such equipment is used only for purposes of transit through the territory of the Community



what if there is no establishment in the Netherlands but there is in another Member State..?



rules for processing personal data



when is processing allowed?

- there must be a processing ground
 - data subject's
 consent, agreement,
 legal obligation
 legitimate interest etc.
- further processing for purposes not incompatible with collection purposes
 - purpose binding

- collecting data only for specific purposes,
 - explicitly defined, and
 - legitimate

- data not stored longer than necessary
- for the purposes for which they were collected



legitimate processing

Article 7

- processing is only allowed...
 - with unambiguous consent of the data subject
 - necessary for the performance of a contract
 - necessary for compliance with a legal obligation
 - necessary in order to protect the vital interests of the data subject
 - necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority...



and processing is allowed...

Article 7

- processing is also allowed...
 - if the processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by the controller or by the third party or parties to whom the data are disclosed...
 - except where such interests are overridden by the interests for fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject



collection and further processing

Article 6(1)(b)

- collection of personal data is allowed for purposes that are
 - specified and explicit
 - and legitimate
- further processing is allowed
 - if this is done in a way that is not incompatible with the purposes for which the data are collected



special data

Article 8

- data on racial or ethnic origin, sex life, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, health,
 - and social security number
- may not be processed, unless
 - by certain controllers
 - for certain purposes
- or with explicit consent of the data subject (etc.)



The Wagister

Data protection watchdog distributes email mailing list

Friday 29th October 2004 09:51 GMT. The Dutch Data Protection Authority (Dutch DPA), which supervises the compliance with acts that regulate the use of personal data, was rather red-faced this week when it sent out a newsletter with all of the recipients in the Cc: field instead of the Bcc: field. DPA's news letter goes out to 4000 subscribers. The DPA, which supervises the compliance with the Dutch Personal Data Protection Act and the Dutch Municipal Database Personal Records Act, was lucky that 'only' a thousand subscribers received the letter, but it managed to make the mistake twice. In a message it apologised for sending the first letter, again putting all recipients to the Cc list, so a second apology had to be sent.

transparency and more...

- obligations of controllers
 - notification to the Data
 Protection Authority
 - provide information to data subject
 - notification to third parties of rectification or erasure or blocking

- rights of data subjects
 - access
 - rectification, removal, blocking
 - object
 - processing based upon art. 7(e) - (f)
 - processing for direct marketing purposes





transfer of personal data prohibited (art. 76 Wbp)



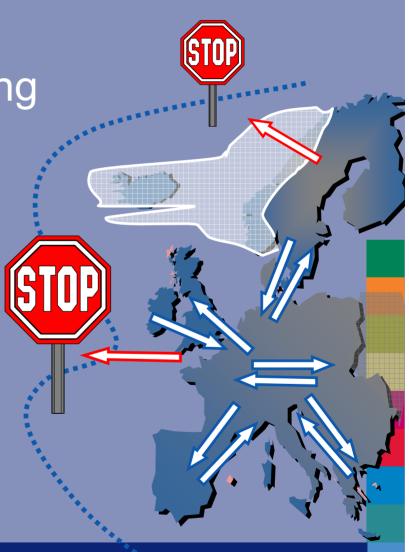
transfer rules

– inside the EU

 no restrictions regarding cross border transfer

- outside the EU

 restrictions regarding data transfer





transfer to third countries

Article 25

- in principle, transfer is only allowed if the non EU-country provides an adequate level of protection
 - US "safe harbor principles"
 - www.export.gov/safeharbor
 - "EC Standard Contractual Clauses"
 - europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market



transfer rules: why?

'evasion' of EU data protection rules via telecoms

inside EU
harmonised
rules for
processing
personal data

no data protection related incentives to process data in other member states

more-or-less same level of protection but still incentives to process data outside EU

outsourcing to 'data havens'

prohibition to transfer data outside the EU, unless...



no adequate level

Article 26

- if there is no adequate level of protection, the transfer is allowed nevertheless
 - with unambiguous consent
 - performance of a contract to which the data subject is party or a contract closed in the interest of the data subject; or
 - important public interest grounds, or for the establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims; or, necessary to protect the vital interests of the data subject, from public registers



solutions

Safe Harbor (US-only)

- Cie. Decision 520/2000/EG
 - Safe Harbor provides for adequate protection
- Safe Harbor List
 - o.a. Apple Computers,
 Hewlett Packard, Microsoft
 Corp. and its US subsidiairies,
 Kodak, Foot Locker,
 Tupperware Corp., Procter &
 Gamble & US affiliates, enz

http://web.ita.gov/safeharbor

Standard Clauses

- export EU d.p. rules to third countries
- between
 - data exporter and data importer
 - controller-to-controller (c2c)
 - controlle-to-processor (c2p)
- sometimes permit required!
 - Netherlands, France...





applicable to websites?

- automated processing of personal data
- exemptions do not apply
 - public security, defence, State security (incl. economic well-being of the State) and the activities of the State in areas of criminal law
 - a natural person in the course of a purely personal or household activity
 - journalism etc



not considered 3rd country transfer

 even if the data can be accessed from third countries, because...

> "given, first, the state of development of the internet at the time Directive 95/46 was drawn up and, second, the absence, in Chapter IV, of criteria applicable to use of the internet...

...one cannot presume that the Community legislature intended the expression transfer [of data] to a third country to cover the loading, by an individual in Mrs Lindqvist's position, of data onto an internet page, even if those data are thereby made accessible to persons in third countries with the technical means to access them"



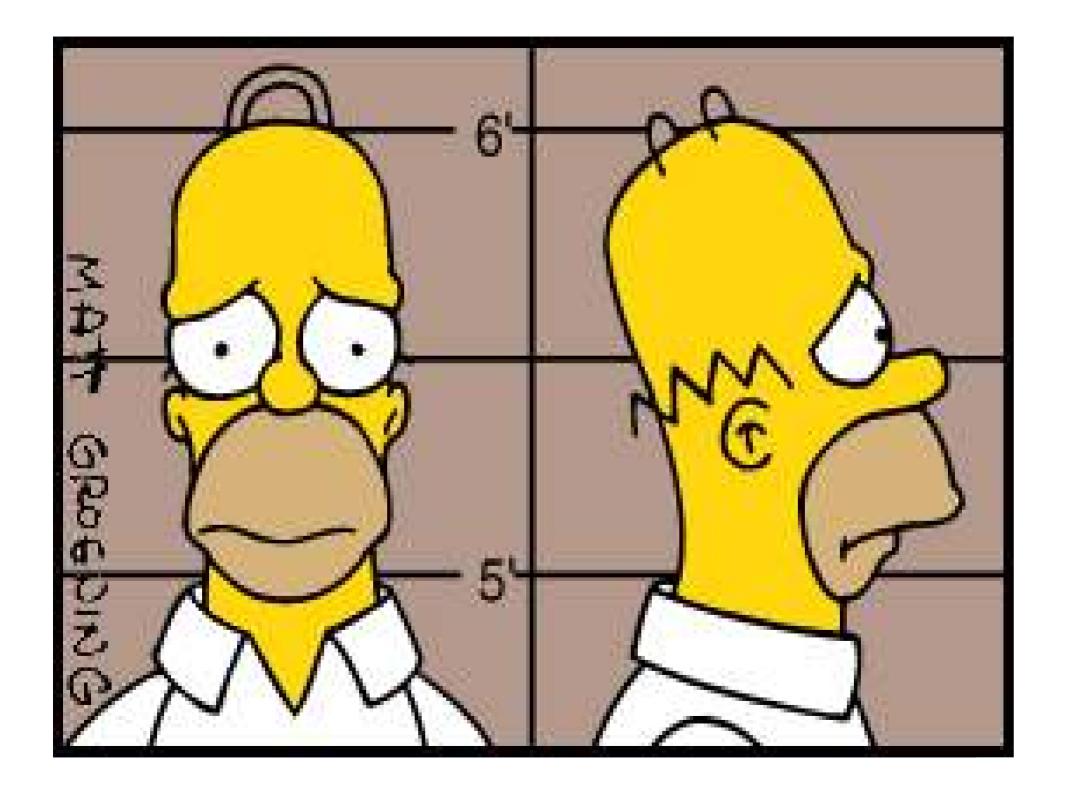
5p@m!

Directive 2002/58/EC OJ. L201 31.07.2002, p. 37-47



A guaranteed delivery of 50 million e-mails for under a thousand bucks. And you only need one sucker in a million to recover your start-up costs





This is Homer Simpson, aka Happy Dude.

The court is making me call everybody back and apologize for my telemarketing scam.

I'm sorry.

If you can find it in your heart to forgive me, send one dollar to Sorry Dude, 742 Evergreen Terrace, Springfield. You have the power



unsolicited communications

– opt in

- automated calling devices without human intervention
- fax, e-mail, sms

opt out

- use of electronic contact details of persons that are already customer
 - for direct marketing purposes
 - with respect to the controllers' own similar products or services





opt-out electr. contact details

- use electronic contact details
 - persons that are already customer
 - for direct marketing purposes
 - with respect to the controllers' own similar products or services

only email and sms, no fax data

What about group companies?
What are products are similar?

no contact details acquired through price contest etc.



'spam poetry'

orgiastic tuna cartilage hardscrabble

annex spayed dolomitic ductwork

contextual balletic songful conservator (typesettin banal wilful degree)

amply calm durkin iehovah

peppermintequinox

lemuel babylonian folksong clockwatcher

translucent gibbon rucksack bonanza



tot ziens!





