THE ETHICS OF DATA COLLECTION

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Who am I?

- PHP Developer
- Stay-at-home mom
- User group Leader
- Mentor & Apprentice

Open Sourcing Mental Illness

- Handbooks to help improve workplaces
- Research/Resources

http://OSMIHelp.org

What is Ethics?

Ethics Includes:

1. Understanding how to evaluate decisions
2. Determining which actions are acceptable
3. Measuring if consequences are appropriate for an action
4. Identifying intrinsic and accepted obligations

Exercise:

1. Is this "good" or "bad"?
2. High degree or low degree?
3. What are the obligations in this situation?
4. What should the consequences be?

Example 1:

1. A thief steals money from a victim

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2. The thief is 15 years old

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4. The victim stole the money from someone else

Example 1:

1. A thief steals money from a victim
2. The thief is 15 years old
3. The thief is homeless and hungry
4. The victim stole the money from someone else
5. The thief gives the money to the original owner

Example 2:

1. A website collects data from its visitors

Example 2:

1. A website collects data from its visitors
2. The data is stored in a database

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2. The data is stored in a database
3. The data is not encrypted

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2. The data is stored in a database
3. The data is not encrypted
4. The data is collected silently in the background

Example 2:

1. A website collects data from its visitors
2. The data is stored in a database
3. The data is not encrypted
4. The data is collected silently in the background
5. The data collection is clearly outlined in the privacy policy

Example 3:

1. A group forms in the US to teach adults English

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1. A group forms in the US to teach adults English
2. They collect contact information to communicate with students
3. They collect native language to match students and tutors
4. Another country attacks the US and these records are used to identify people from that country to detain them

Consider the past:

- Protestant and Catholic church conversion records
- Community center membership records
- Census data
- National identification cards
- Facebook messages
- Etsy purchases

Consider the present:

- Google Customer Match and ad tracking
- Clearview AI
- Ancestry.com and 23andMe
- Boundless Informant
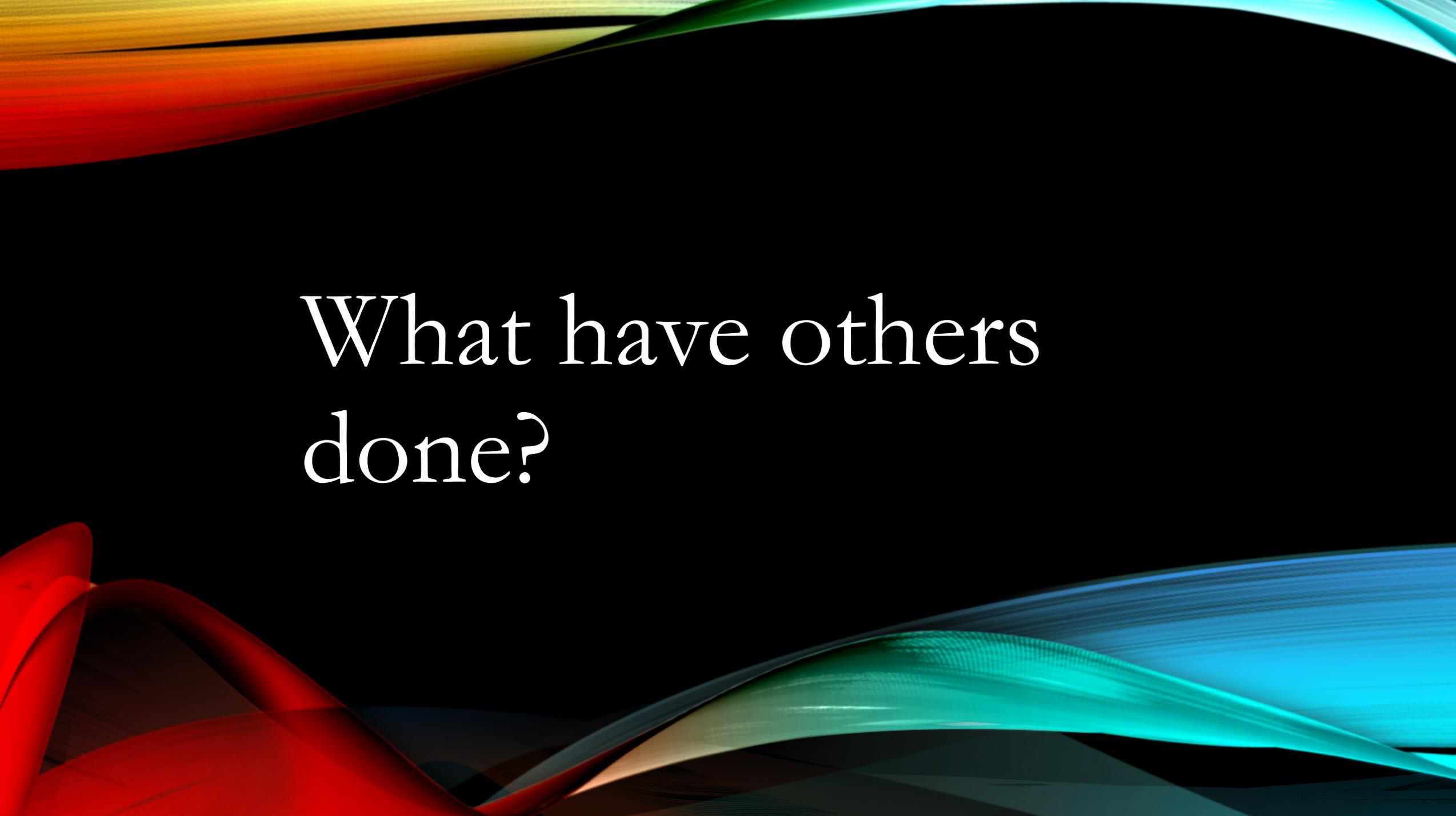
What have others done?

Nuremberg Code

- "The voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential."
- "The experiment should be so conducted as to avoid all unnecessary physical and mental suffering and injury."
- "During the course of the experiment the human subject should be at liberty to bring the experiment to an end…"
- "During the course of the experiment the scientist in charge must be prepared to terminate the experiment at any stage…"

What can we do?

- Do we absolutely need this data?
- Could using these two pieces of data together provide more information than intended?
- What obligations do we have in collecting this data?
- Does the information we have identify a member of a vulnerable or minority group?

Let's Talk About It

Creating an account

Let's Talk About It

Purchase Receipts

Let's Talk About It

Blog Comments

Resources

- Ethics definition - https://www.britannica.com/topic/ethics-philosophy
- Ethics definition - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethics
- Locating the Victims (Holocaust Encyclopedia) - https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/locating-the-victims
- Rwandan Genocide - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rwandan_genocide
- Japanese-American Incarceration - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internment_of_Japanese_Americans
- How Authorities Can Use the Internet to Identify Protestors - https://www.npr.org/2020/06/28/884351939/how-authorities-can-use-the-internet-to-identify-protesters
- Nebraska cops used Facebook messages to investigate an alleged illegal abortion - https://www.npr.org/2022/08/12/1117092169/nebraska-cops-used-facebook-messages-to-investigate-an-alleged-illegal-abortion
- The ethics of catching criminals using their family's DNS - https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-05029-9
- Clearview AI, Used by Police to Find Criminals, Is Now in Public Defender's Hands - https://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/18/technology/facial-recognition-clearview-ai.html
- Why using genetic genealogy to solve crimes could pose problems - https://www.sciencenews.org/article/why-police-using-genetic-geneaology-solve-crimes-poses-problems

Resources

- Survival of the Witness Protection Program in the Digital Age - https://www.securedata.com/blog/survival-of-witness-protection-program-in-the-digital-age
- Boundless Informant: the NSA's secret tool to track global surveillance data - https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/jun/08/nsa-boundless-informant-global-datamining
- Nuremberg Code - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuremberg_Code

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