Internet and human rights (1/12)

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API days, Paris, 12 december 2018
A bit of context about the Internet
A bit of context about the Internet

- APIs are accessed over the Internet,
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- The Internet is used for everything (not just business),
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- The Internet is no longer “extra stuff”; it is the common space where our activities take place,
A bit of context about the Internet

- APIs are accessed over the Internet,
- The Internet is used for everything (not just business),
- The Internet is no longer “extra stuff”; it is the common space where our activities take place,
- Therefore, politics of the Internet are important.
An Internet meant for more than brands and bullshit

Edward Snowden 🌀 @Snowden

He drew in fire visions of an Internet meant for more than brands and bullshit, founding @EFF, @freedomofpress, and writing the Declaration of Independence of Cyberspace. Farewell, my weary giant. You were the dawn of digital rights.
A bit of context about software
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- Software is used for everything,
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- <quote author="Spiderman’s uncle">With great power come great responsibilities</quote>,
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- <quote author="Spiderman’s uncle">With great power come great responsibilities</quote>,
- Therefore, politics of software are important.
A bit of context about human rights
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- Universal Declaration of Human Rights; 70th anniversary two days ago,
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- Universal, like the Internet,
A bit of context about human rights

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights; 70th anniversary two days ago,
- Universal, like the Internet,
- Freedom of speech, of assembly, right to privacy, non-discrimination...
But this is politics? I only work on practical stuff

“There are no ‘purely technical’ decisions.

Example of work at IETF: the group HRPC,

Lot of work, leading to the document “RFC 8280”. A must-read.

“These concepts have little to do with the technology that’s possible, and much to do with the technology that we choose to create.” (RFC 3935)
But this is politics? I only work on practical stuff

- Yes, this is politics; but there are no “purely technical” decisions,

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- Example of work at IETF (Internet Engineering Task Force, the standard organisation of Internet protocols): the group HRPC (Human Rights and Protocol Considerations),

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Internet and human rights (7/12)

Practical: working with personal data

Remember: personal data is not only when there is a name; an IP address is personal data, behind many APIs: a database of personal data, your database will leak.

Important: minimize data, GDPR is mandatory in Europe, but it is not only a legal matter.
Practical: working with personal data

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Practical: working with personal data

- Remember: personal data is not only when there is a name; an IP address is personal data,
- Behind many APIs: a database of personal data (accounts, authorization...),
Practical: working with personal data

- Remember: personal data is not only when there is a name; an IP address is personal data,
- Behind many APIs: a database of personal data,
- Your database will leak (do you really think your security is better than the security of Yahoo, Equifax, Deloitte, British Airways, Marriott, Quora?),

Important: minimize data,

GDPR is mandatory in Europe, but it is not only a legal matter.
Practical: working with personal data

- Remember: personal data is not only when there is a name; an IP address is personal data,
- Behind many APIs: a database of personal data,
- Your database will leak,
- Important: **minimize** data (only the city, not the full address, only the birth year, not the full birth date),
Practical: working with personal data

- Remember: personal data is not only when there is a name; an IP address is personal data,
- Behind many APIs: a database of personal data,
- Your database will leak,
- Important: **minimize** data,
- GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) is mandatory in Europe, but it is not only a legal matter.
Even if you don't have an explicit database, you have an implicit one, produced by logging. Do you really need to log all this? And to keep it for weeks/months? Data minimization.
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Practical: logging

- Even if you don’t have an explicit database, you have an implicit one, produced by logging.
- Do you really need to log all this? And to keep it for weeks/months?
Practical: logging

- Even if you don’t have an explicit database, you have an implicit one, produced by logging.
- Do you really need to log all this? And to keep it for weeks/months?
- Data minimization (only a prefix, not the full IP address).
Practical: available database vs. API

There are technical reasons to choose one or the other, but think also of other reasons: privacy and robustness.
Practical: available database vs. API

- Access through an API, or making the database available?
Practical: available database vs. API

- Access through an API, or making the database available?
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Practical: available database vs. API

- Access through an API, or making the database available?
- There are technical reasons to choose one or the other,
- But think also of other reasons: privacy (no logging of queries) and robustness (more independence for users).
And now, a commercial

My book, “Cyberstructure” (only in French at this time), about these subjects. Editor C & F Éditions.

https://cyberstructure.fr/
Conclusion

Human rights matter,
What we do has consequences,
True, there are other criterions when you take a decision,
But today, human rights are typically never taken into account,
This should change.
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Serment du Beffroi de Montrouge (Paris Web conference)