Lecture 6-1
Privacy and the Government

Participation Quiz

Do you think there should be more women in Computer Science?

a) No, I think things are right the way they are

b) Meh, I don't really care

c) Yes, but I don't think much can be done about it

d) Yes, and I think we should do something about it

Solove's Taxonomy of Privacy

- Privacy can become an issue in four different ways:
  - Information collection: gathering personal information
    - "How much information do I have to give to rent a car?"
  - Information processing: storing, manipulating, and using information that has been collected
    - "Should Google use the content of my emails to target ads to me?"
  - Information dissemination: spreading personal information
    - "Is it wrong to forward an email that was sent to me?"
  - Invasion: intruding upon a person's daily life
    - "Is it a good idea to email professors you might be interested in working with in grad school? How many: 2, 10, 100, 1000?"

Public Records: Statutory Disclosures

- Census
  - Purpose: ensure that seats in Parliament are apportioned correctly
  - Worry: this data may also be used for other purposes
  - Concern over the long-form census

- Revenue Canada
  - Intentional disclosure (rogue employees)
  - Unintentional disclosure (lost laptops)

…how worried should we be about the existence of such records?

Privacy and the Government

"The government should create a database identifying the DNA of every resident and make it available to medical researchers and police."
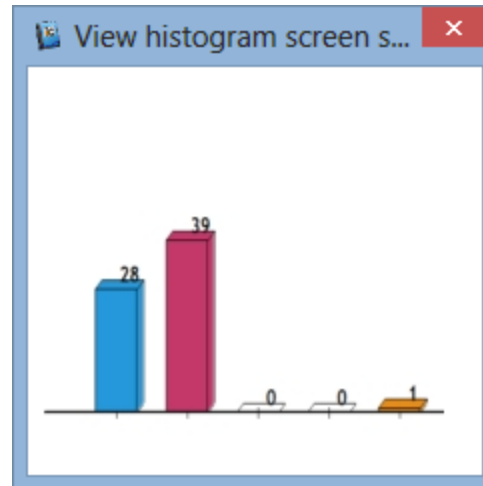
Data Mining

- Data mining
  - Searching for patterns or relationships in one or more databases
  - This info typically provided by the customer for another purpose
- Many internet services are essentially provided as an opportunity to gather valuable data
  - Google; Facebook; free online courses
- Also performed by the government
  - Efforts to detect terrorism via phone, bank, travel records
  - Tax audits
- *Questions:*
  - *Ownership: do you have any rights over information arising from transactions in which you participated?*
  - *Ethics: what data mining activities are unethical? Which are ethical?*
  - *Does it make a difference whether DM is opt-in or opt-out?*
  - *At what point does DM become "creepy"?*
  - *Should we worry about ending up in a "personalization bubble"?*