Megan Heverling

CPMS101

Privacy Paradox

In my own words, the privacy paradox can be explained as an idea that people claim to have strong feelings towards staying private on the internet, but then contract themselves in the information they are willing to share. In our society, social media is a critical part with how we interact with one another on a daily basis. In this day and age, it is almost impossible to picture the world we live in today without cell phones and the internet. It has reached the extent where many individuals mental associate their overall self worth with how many followers or likes they have on a given social media platform such as Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, etc. Living in a world where people feel the need to share their every movement with their followers can destroy a lot of privacy. Many consumers claim how they do not want the government or any other official body to track their internet usage, when often we are willing to put personal information on the internet.

Personally, I believe the author accurately describes my own online behavior as well as many of my peers. I am very freaked out by the idea that people can track our internet history to find very personal information about us. Credit card number are just one example of a personal piece of information I have shared over the internet to online shop. The amount of times I have entered my home address to have a package shipped to me is countless. It is scary to imagine what could happen if this information got into the wrong person’s hands. With that being said, it is clear I value my privacy online. I do not share pictures of myself with people I do not know and have a private account on Instagram and Facebook.

On the other head, there are many instances I can recall where I have not been so private with my information. There is a popular picture sharing website called VSCO where mainly girls will post more casual photos. I like this form of social media because there are no likes and you can not see how many followers you have, therefore creating a much more laid back feel. The down side is anyone can see anyone’s photos, even if they do not have an account. All that is needed is the link to their specific profile. Many girls will put the link to their VSCO account in their Instagram biographies, making any sort of privacy setting on Instagram pointless.

One way I disagree with the paradox is through the example of sharing my phones location. I am not comfortable allowing website and companies to track my location, but I do allow my friends and family. I feel that this is an example in which the paradox is justified. Sharing information with strangers over the internet is completely different, in my opinion, then sharing it with large corporations. Overall, I do feel that the privacy paradox is a very relevant idea in todays society and should be kept in mind when creating an online presence