

[Siva Vaidhyanathan](#) Just deleted all my Facebook Apps bc FB will not let me restrict them from harvesting and distributing my personal information.

[Thu at 4:39pm](#) · Comment · [Like](#)[Unlike](#)

[4 people](#) like this.



[Roger Tatoud](#)

and next you will deleted your account! new year's resolution

[Thu at 4:47pm](#)



[Sarah Walch](#)

Oh dear.

[Thu at 4:54pm](#)



[Jack Lerner](#)

Yeah I did that six mos. ago. What I want to know is whether I should stay on FB given what they're sharing that I can't opt out of.

[Thu at 6:46pm](#)



[Siva Vaidhyanathan](#)

I'm trying to decide the same thing.

[Thu at 6:50pm](#)



[Robin Gross](#)

Jack, that is exactly what I am wondering.

[Thu at 6:55pm](#)



[Siva Vaidhyanathan](#)

The only reason for me to stay is that by quitting I can't monitor how FB changes its policies and how people react. Not being on FB means you can't learn about FB.

[Thu at 6:56pm](#)



[Jack Lerner](#)

This really may be the straw that broke the camel's back. I might also simply "go dark," erase most of my personal content, and stop posting. Which people would probably thank me for anyway! :)

[Thu at 6:58pm](#)



[Kevin Bankston](#)

Whatever you do, short of quitting altogether, apps that your friends install are still going to get all of your "publicly available information"... Indeed, if you've made the privacy transition, they already have gotten it. 'Tis to despair...

[Thu at 7:24pm](#)



[Jack Lerner](#)

I love how on Privacy --> Applications it defaults to "recently used" instead of all apps associated with your profile. FACEBOOK YOU ARE DECEPTIVE, AND KIND OF EVIL

[Thu at 7:46pm](#)



[Siva Vaidhyanathan](#)

It's becoming clearer that we should not be allowing firms to make "policy" that makes us conform. We should be making policy and making firms conform.

Boycotts, protests, blogging, etc. have no effect.

[Thu at 7:48pm](#)



[Kevin Bankston](#)

So what would have an effect, do you think?

Thu at 8:00pm



[Siva Vaidhyanathan](#)

The answer no one wants to hear: Congress has to care enough to do something. Nothing short is futile.

Thu at 8:04pm



[Jessica Mullen](#)

can i please have a specific example of why you don't want your personal (public?) information harvested and distributed?

Thu at 8:34pm · [Delete](#)



[Laura Forlano](#)

me too!

Thu at 9:47pm



[Siva Vaidhyanathan](#)

It's not about examples. And it's not about me and what I might want. It's about power, permission, and presumptions.

If anyone has any concern about businesses harvesting private information (lists of friends, affiliations, preferences, whatever) and selling, profiling, releasing, that information, then we should all be concerned. No one has to justify such a personal concern. The burden should be on the firm that makes money on such hidden transactions.

In this case, one can imagine that someone has been using Facebook to organize protests against the homophobic policies of the Egyptian government. And, actually, some people have done just that. A person in such a movement might not know that if the Egyptian government sets up an "application" and uses it to suck up lists of friends it can cross-check data and identify and persecute trouble makers.... See More

This is not innocent in all contexts. I would argue it's not innocent in any context.

Thu at 10:25pm



[Siva Vaidhyanathan](#)

In addition, people should not be forced to make their profile photos public. Many people have reasons to avoid stalkers, etc. Others have reasons to keep their ethnicities from being publicly searchable. In other words, we should not try to anticipate, judge, or dismiss anyone's reason to want to retain control over one's image and identity. We must respect people's wishes no matter how different they may be from ours.

I hope everyone following this has read this:

<http://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2009/12/facebooks-new-privacy-changes-good-bad-and-ugly...> See More

Thu at 10:33pm



[Siva Vaidhyanathan](#)

And if that convinces you that this is a serious issue, please join this group: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=44310011336>

Thu at 10:35pm



[Jessica Mullen](#)

i appreciate your concern and the example of homophobic policies of the egyptian government. however, no one is forcing anyone to put their profile picture, ethnicity or gender on facebook. if you want to control your information, keep it on paper, in your possession. or in your head, where ideas you don't want to share belong.

we have to stop ... See Morebeing so afraid of what governments and corporations can potentially do to us. of course it is risky and people will get hurt, but that is how change is made.

4 hours ago · [Delete](#)



[Siva Vaidhyanathan](#)

Jessica, the problem is twofold:

1) Companies like Facebook are not honest and open about what they do and why they do it.

2) Most people do not have the skill or awareness to execute appropriate control over these relationships. You are elite. Most people are not. This is important because it's not about you or me. It's about everyone.... See More

The fact is that while no one is forcing anyone to put anything on Facebook, we all did so under certain terms. The company unilaterally changing the terms and settings. That's why we should be prepared to quit FB ... except that FB will not delete your info even if you do quit!

We don't have to be victims if we take control. We can't take control unless we demand changes to law.

That's how change is made.

I'm not sure what change you are talking about. But I am talking about real people controlling their reputations and lives.

3 hours ago



[Jessica Mullen](#)

yes i am elite. education is very important. maybe i lack altruism. but i still don't think that scaring people and threatening inevitable stalking is a productive reaction.

laws can take WAY too long and be completely ineffective. we need to adapt in a different way.

when i have what the hell that is figured out, i'll let you know.... See More
about an hour ago · [Delete](#)