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Subject: Google

Posted by [MUDKIPS](#) on Wed, 12 Jan 2011 12:22:43 GMT

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So, two things have happened recently that have me extremely worried.

Yesterday, google forced YouTube account holders to link their YouTube accounts to google accounts, otherwise they would not be able to access them anymore. Now, for people like us, that's no problem, we just make a fake google account and voila.

But the majority of people on YouTube are NOT like us. For instance children, or fathers, or housewives, etc. They will make a real google account, with all their personal information (including their phone number, as is recently introduced). This will enable google to link people's YouTube accounts, and all their viewing habits, to their personal information.

Now, here's the second bit of news. Companies like Microsoft, Amazon, Yahoo, Steam, etc. Use separate servers in Europe and America to store their data (and all the personal information they hold). Google however stores most of their privacy-sensitive data in the USA. This makes it far and far and far easier for the American government to access all that information, than if they had a separate European server for European members' personal information.

When a number of European citizens and companies complained about this ridiculous state of affairs, a google jurist at a symposium says: "Customer's shouldn't whine. We don't offer a villa you can decorate yourself, but an apartment, with all the benefits of the cloud at the lowest prices."

Now, normally, I wouldn't mind, but... Google is a company that is rapidly expanding. Right now there are a number of independent sites that do have my personal information, what if they get taken over by google too?

Also, don't forget the American Patriot Act.

This is an EXTREMELY dangerous development.

My (dutch) source:

<http://webwereld.nl/nieuws/105348/google-weigert-data-in-europa-te-houden.html>

This is also interesting:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/technology/2011/jan/06/google-streetview-south-korea>

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