

Fighting the Good Fight on Privacy

Chao Jun Liu
Senior Legislative Associate
Electronic Frontier Foundation
chao@eff.org

Agenda

- Why privacy is important
- How we fight for your privacy
- What you can do to protect your privacy
- How to think about privacy

Why Privacy Matters

Privacy is a right. Privacy is about power, agency, and choice.

EFF Calls on Kuwait to Release Journalist Ahmed Shihab-Eldin

BY JILLIAN C. YORK | APRIL 15, 2026



She Got an Abortion. So A Texas Cop Used 83,000 Cameras to Track Her Down

BY RINDALA ALAJAJI | MAY 30, 2025



Yes to California's Bill to Ban Surveillance Pricing

BY ADAM SCHWARTZ | JUNE 11, 2026



1. We are not alone

2. In Statehouses and Courtrooms

- California Privacy Protection Act (CCPA)
- The DELETE Act 2023, which created the DROP system!
- CA AB 566 2025 Global Privacy Control/Opt Out
- IL Biometric Information Privacy Act
- New Hampshire ALPR Law

- Carpenter v United States (2018)
- Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle v Baltimore PD (2022)
- Armendariz v City of Colorado Springs (2026)
- Chatrie v United States (2026)

3. We have the Technology

- The encrypted web happened within the last 16 years!
- The fight for encrypted communication bends in our direction
  - Encryption of messaging through Signal and WhatsApp
  - Recent encryption in communication between Apple and Android
  - Discord's encrypted calls (though not messages yet)
- Two Factor Authentication, Virtual Private Networks (VPNs),and Global Privacy Controls

Practical Privacy Tips

- Privacy Badger
- Disabling mobile advertising ID tracking
  - For Android it is Settings > Privacy & Security > Privacy Controls > Ads > “Delete Advertising ID”
  - For Apple it is Settings > Privacy & Security > Tracking > Switch off “Allow Apps to Request to Track”
- Use the DROP system
- Two EFF Resources:
  - Blog with 22 Tips to Protect Your Privacy and Security
  - Surveillance Self-Defense Guide

EFF's Surveillance Self Defense Guides

Basics

- Creating Strong Passwords
- Keeping Your Data Safe
- What Should I Know About Encryption?
- Your Security Plan
- Communicating With Others
- Choosing Your Tools
- Seven Steps To Digital Security
- Animated Overview: How Strong Encryption Can Help Avoid Online Surveillance
- Animated Overview: Using Password Managers to Stay Safe Online
- Animated Overview: Protecting Your Device From Hackers
- Animated Overview: How to Make a Super-Secure Password Using Dice
- Why Communication Metadata Matters

Tool Guides

- How to: Manage Your Digital Footprint
- How to: Use Tor
- How to: Get to Know Android Privacy and Security Settings
- How to: Get to Know iPhone Privacy and Security Settings
- How to: Enable Lockdown Mode on iPhone
- How to: Detect Bluetooth Trackers
- How to: Use WhatsApp
- How to: Use Tor on Android and iPhone
- How to: Use Signal
- How to: Encrypt Your iPhone
- How to: Encrypt Your Windows, Mac, or Linux Computer
- How to: Delete Your Computer's Data Securely
- How to: Enable Two-factor Authentication
- How to: Avoid Phishing Attacks
- How to: Understand and Circumvent Network Censorship

Security Scenarios

- Interested in encryption?
- Human rights defender?
- Want a security starter pack?
- Activist or protester?
- Journalist on the move?
- Journalism student?
- Academic researcher?
- Online security veteran?
- LGBTQ Youth?
- Abortion Access Activist, Worker, or Patient

Privacy is a Process

- We fight, act, and negotiate with privacy on our own terms everyday. Everyone's risk factors look different. Everyone's risk tolerances look different.
- Privacy is a community good. The more privacy everyone has, the better off we all are.
- Time heals most wounds. The reason companies want our data all the time is because your data does get stale. If we pass laws today, it means the companies' old data gets less relevant and your privacy increases