



Privacy in the Information Age

By Fred H. Cate

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Paperback. 248 pages. Dimensions: 8.9in. x 5.9in. x

0.7in. Electronic information networks offer extraordinary

advantages to business, government, and individuals in terms of

power, capacity, speed, accessibility, and cost. But these same

capabilities present substantial privacy issues. With an

unprecedented amount of data available in digital format--

which is easier and less expensive to access, manipulate, and

store--others know more about you than ever before. Consider

this: data routinely collected about you includes your health,

credit, marital, educational, and employment histories; the times

and telephone numbers of every call you make and receive; the

magazines you subscribe to and the books you borrow from

the library; your cash withdrawals; your purchases by credit

card or check; your electronic mail and telephone messages;

where you go on the World Wide Web. The ramifications of such

a readily accessible storehouse of information are astonishing.

Governments have responded to these new challenges to

personal privacy in a wide variety of ways. At one extreme, the

European Union in 1995 enacted sweeping regulation to protect

personal information; at the other extreme, privacy law in the

United States and many other countries is fragmented,

inconsistent, and offers little protection for...



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