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12 Jan 2010 09:47 am

Privacy Is Dead?

Julian Sanchez [isn't so sure](#):

It's easy to look at all the information that comes up in a simple Google search for someone's name and conclude that privacy is dead. But I think it's at least as significant that the crucial first page of results is likely to consist of information that the individuals themselves have chosen to make public: Blogs, Facebook or MySpace profiles, Twitter accounts, Last.fm pages, YouTube channels.

A similar inquiry a generation ago surely would have been much more laborious and less fruitful, but it also would have consisted to a far greater extent of what *others* had to say about the target: gossip first and foremost, but perhaps also press mentions, official records, and so on. It's not that such information is now less accessible, but for the average person, it's pushed to the margin by what we've chosen to disclose. That's not an unmixed blessing—some may feel as though this merely traps them in a kind of openness arms race—but neither is it the privacy death-spiral a purely quantitative analysis might suggest.

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And they want to bring it back.

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That's what Marc Thiessen labels people who oppose torture.

From September 2001 To June 2009

My politics changed because reality shifted.

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—George Orwell

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