Personal Data Plan

Risk-Benefit Analysis – Guiding Questions

What data do I want to protect?

Who do I want to protect it from?

What are the potential consequences, and how bad are they?

How likely are the risks?

How difficult is it to secure?

What is the benefit of this technology?

Are the benefits worth the risks?

Adapted from:
Data Privacy Checklist

- Conduct a risk-benefit analysis of using this technology.
- As part of your analysis, read the Terms of Service / Use or software license. Need the tl;dr version? Check out tldrlegal.com or tosdr.com!
- Review and customize privacy and location settings and permissions.
- Secure access to your device or account: set a strong password and enable two-factor authentication. Be careful about storing passwords in the browser, staying logged in, and connecting accounts (ex. linking Amazon and Twitch).
- Maintain security by installing software updates. Use update notifications as a reminder to revisit your risk-benefit analysis – you might change your mind, or no longer actively use this technology, in which case you should disable or uninstall it! Terms of Service / Use change frequently, so review them as well! Finally, some software updates will override your privacy settings, so be sure to double check them.

Additional Resources

Privacy Workshop Guide
https://guides.libraries.psu.edu/berks/privacy

TLDRLegal https://tldrlegal.com/
Read software licenses and terms of service / use in plain English!

Terms of Service; Didn't Read https://tosdr.org/
Gain insight into Terms of Service rated for fairness, privacy, and personal data use. View ratings by service (ex. YouTube) or topic (ex. Anonymity and Tracking). Also available as a browser extension.

Electronic Frontier Foundation, Surveillance Self-Defense
https://ssd.eff.org/en
Practical tips and tools for securing your personal data and digital communications.

Privacy Rights Clearinghouse
https://www.privacyrights.org/learn
Practical information about privacy policies in a variety of contexts.

Electronic Frontier Foundation's Privacy Badger
https://www.eff.org/privacybadger
Browser ad-on to block online tracking.

DuckDuckGo
https://duckduckgo.com/
Web search engine that does not store your search history or personal information.