

Digital Humanism Summer School
September 19 2022

NO TIME FOR COMPLACENCY!

George Metakides.

SAPERERE AUDE

Curiosity, Reason, Tolerance, Rights
In the wake of the Industrial Revolution



Thought leaders of the 18th century

Enlightenment

- France – Descartes, Voltaire, Condorcet, Diderot, Montesquieu, la Mettrie, Bayle, Fontenelle, Buffon, Watteau, David, Lavoisier, Robespierre, de Sade
- England – Newton, Hobbes, Locke, Paine, Gibbon, Defoe, Pope, Priestley
- Scotland – Hume, Smith, Burns
- Holland – Spinoza
- Germany/Prussia – Bach, Leibniz, d'Holbach, Kant
- Austria – Mozart, Haydn
- Italy – Vico, Beccaria
- Ireland – Berkeley, Boyle, Swift
- Switzerland – Rousseau, Bernoulli, Euler
- United States – Jefferson, Madison, Franklin
- Latin America – Bolívar

Most of the above figured prominently in the Roman catholic Church's

Index Librorum Prohibitorum (started in the 16th century and ended in 1966)



The enlightenment metaphor

Back in 2011 when we founded the Digital Enlightenment Forum)

“We call for a Digital Enlightenment movement for a humanistic digital society in which:

- People enjoy the kinds of autonomy and freedom online that they have offline
- The privacy, dignity and rights of the individual are supported.
We aim to foster:
- Interdisciplinary debate and development of technical and policy solutions that stimulate digital innovation and sustainable evolution, are people-centric and beneficial to all.”

www.digitalenlightenment.org



Digital Enlightenment Activities

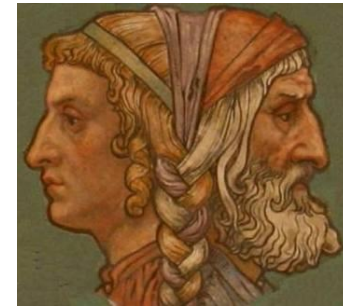
DEF Activities since 2011 included:

- Conferences
- Publications
- Workshops, seminars
- Fireside chats (started in 2020 as part of the DEF mission focusing on the nurturing of thought leaders)
- Policy Bootcamps

Privacy was one of the first issues tackled (others included net neutrality, education and digital skills, democracy in the digital era)

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Another Enlightenment metaphor



The two sides

E.g. Data

- Improve our lives

health, environment, public administration

- Vulnerability

invasions of privacy, surveillance, manipulation

The “party line” on Privacy in 2011 !

“Privacy” – Outdated? Incompatible? A problem?

Google's Eric Schmidt:
“If you have something that
you don't want anyone to
know, maybe you shouldn't be
doing it in the first place”



Facebook's Mark
Zuckerberg:
“The Age of
Privacy is Over”



Sun Microsystems'
Scott McNealy:
“You have zero
privacy anyway..
get over it.”



Louis Freech former
Director FBI:
“the American people
must be willing to
give up a degree of
personal privacy in
exchange for safety
and security”



EU Legal framework on Data Protection and Privacy was antiquated Urgent Action was needed

- DP Directive: 95/46/EC,
Privacy Directive: 2002/58/EC
- **Personal Data**: information relating to an identified or identifiable person
- **Scope**:
 - **Material**: which information and processes addressed
 - **Personal**: which roles (data controller, processor, subject)
 - **Territorial**: applicable law, cross-border data transfer
- **Issues**:
 - **Linked data**, smart data mining and Personal Data
 - **Accountability** and **transparency** of controller and processor; need for technology support
 - **Risk** assessment and **user control**, need for technology support



Seven Years Later

GDPR : Implemented in 2018 in the EU

Inspired similar regulation around the world



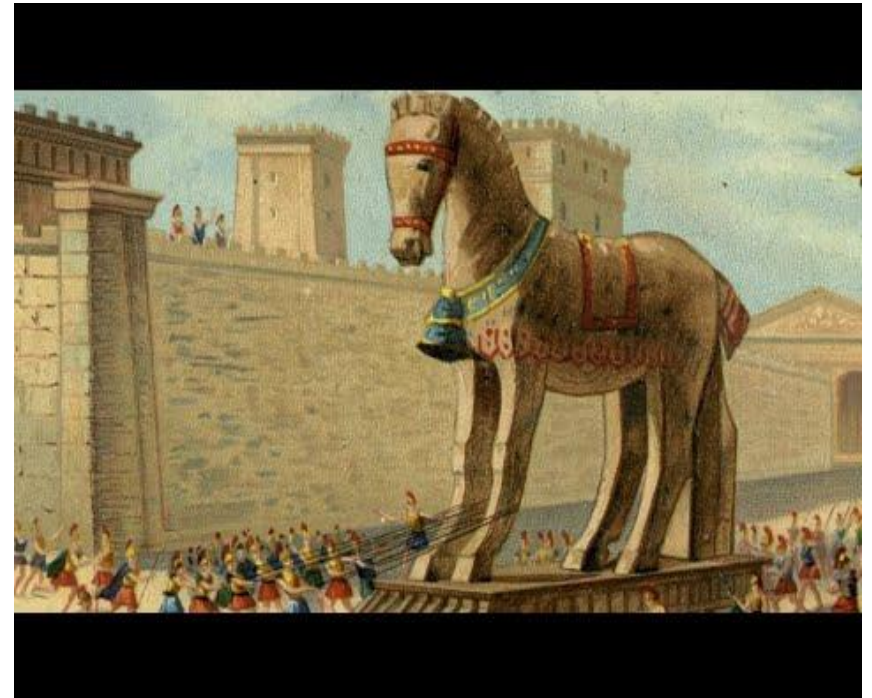
Are we better off today (privacy –wise) than we were in 2011?

- Citizens, policy makers and even industry leaders have been “sensitized” (reluctantly?)
- We got GDPR and privacy legislation emanation from it
- Numerous decisions by the Courts
- Some technology developments helped
- BUT.....

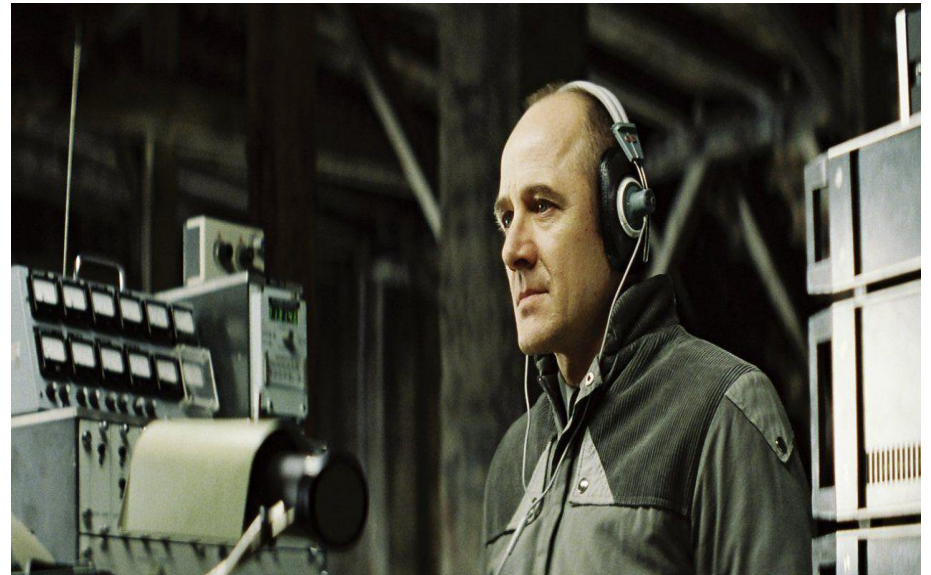
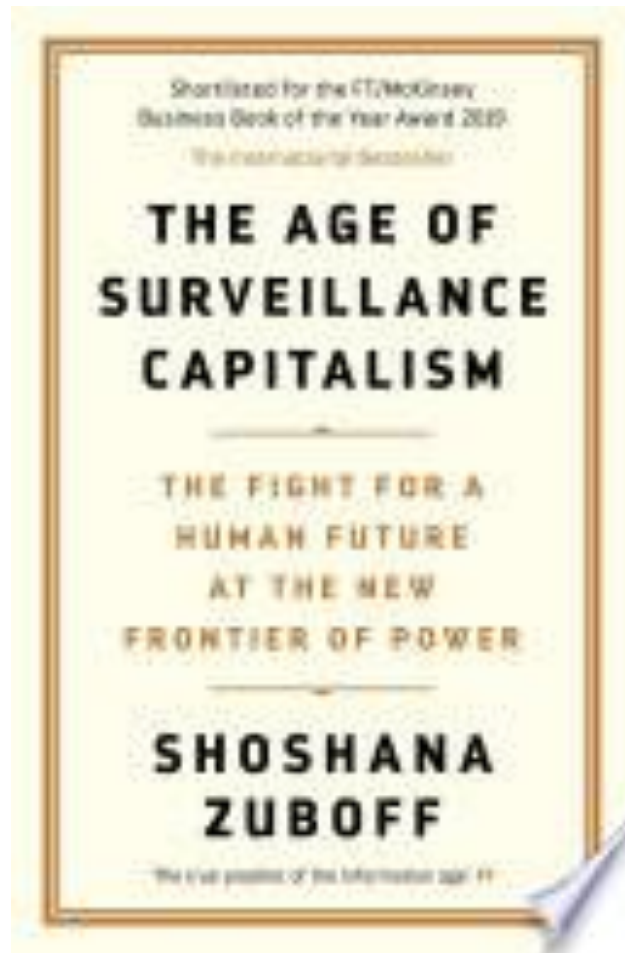
The state of privacy in 2022

How Pegasus (and Predator etc.) threaten us

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/pega/home/highlights>



The state of Surveillance



CONCLUSION

- No time for complacency
- Adapt efforts to face emerging challenges
- New EU legislation on the table.
- Generational continuity of effort: Nurturing tomorrow's thought leadership and leaders.
- What we learned from the Fireside Chats
- We need Summer-schools such as this now more than ever

No time for complacency

Meaning (Cambridge)

A feeling of calm satisfaction with your situation that prevents you from trying harder

From medieval Latin *complacentia*,
from Latin *complacere* 'to please'.

