

4565: Computing Foundations for a Digital Age

Unit 2

Unit 2 Day 2: Privacy vs. Security

Activity: Privacy vs. Security Scenarios

Instructions: Read each scenario and decide—Is this a privacy issue, a security issue, or both?

1. A social media company tracks your location and collects data on your daily habits to show you targeted ads.

– Is this a privacy issue, security issue, or both?
2. Your school requires fingerprint scanning to check out library books and access computers.

– Does this protect security, invade privacy, or both?
3. A hacker steals millions of credit card numbers from an online shopping website and sells them on the dark web.

– Is this a security issue, privacy issue, or both?
4. Your phone's microphone listens in on conversations to suggest ads based on what you say near your device.

– Is this a privacy issue, security issue, or both?
5. A student clicks on a phishing email, and their account is hacked, leading to leaked school records.

– Is this a security issue, privacy issue, or both?
6. Your laptop camera is hacked, and someone can see everything you do without your knowledge.

– Is this a privacy issue, security issue, or both?

7. A fitness app automatically shares your running routes with the public by default.
 - Is this a privacy issue, security issue, or both?
 8. A company suffers a data breach, exposing personal information like names, addresses, and Social Security numbers.
 - Is this a security issue, privacy issue, or both?
 9. A government agency monitors phone calls and emails of citizens to track criminal activity.
 - Is this a privacy issue, security issue, or both?
 10. A website saves your password in plain text, making it easier for hackers to steal your login credentials.
 - Is this a security issue, privacy issue, or both?
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Teacher Tips

- **Class Discussion:** Have students justify their choices and discuss the gray areas where privacy and security overlap.
 - **Debate Variation:** Assign small groups different stakeholder perspectives (e.g., government, individuals, businesses) and discuss who benefits and who is at risk in each scenario.
 - **Real-World Connection:** Share recent news articles about data breaches, surveillance, or AI privacy concerns to connect the scenarios to current events.
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Privacy vs. Security – Teacher Answer Key

Use this guide to support classroom discussion.

1. **Privacy Issue** – Personal data is collected and used without explicit consent.
2. **Both Privacy & Security** – Improves access control, but biometric data use raises privacy concerns.
3. **Security Issue** – A data breach that threatens users' financial safety.
4. **Privacy Issue** – Raises surveillance and consent concerns.
5. **Both Privacy & Security** – Private data exposed due to a security breach.
6. **Both Privacy & Security** – Unauthorized access leads to an invasion of privacy.
7. **Privacy Issue** – Public sharing of personal location may be unintentional.
8. **Both Privacy & Security** – Sensitive data exposed due to a failure in security systems.
9. **Privacy Issue (with Security Considerations)** – Intended for security but raises ethical concerns about surveillance.
10. **Security Issue** – Poor security practice increases vulnerability to hacking.