Keeping Our Families Safe in the Digital World

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About Me

- Father of five homeschooled children
- Software engineer 20+ years
- NCHEA Board member
- Privacy Advocate

Goals of this Workshop

- Privacy is **important** to our families safety.
- Learn about the tools available to keep your families information safe.
- Your information is YOURS and ONLY YOURS

Why is Privacy Important

Common Statements

I've done nothing wrong, why should I care if some one is **snooping** on my information?

I have nothing to hide...

Why is Privacy Important

"Arguing that you don't care about the right to privacy because you have nothing to hide is no different than saying you don't care about free speech because you have nothing to say"

Edward Snowden

Why Privacy is Important

Are You Willing to Give Up Your Rights?

- I don't think I'm scared that Facebook/Google has my personal information.
- Your rights matter because you never know when you are going to need them.
- Will someone in the future use these things against you.

Why Privacy is Important

We Have a **RIGHT** to Privacy

Not everyone shares this view!

But there are **OTHER** people who care about your information

...and use it for their benefit

- Government
- Private Corporations (Facebook/Google)
- Nefarious Actors (Foreign countries, Criminals)

Protecting Your Families Privacy

- History of the Internet (where does privacy fit in)
- Tools for Online Privacy
- Social Networks

Internet History (Philosophy)

What Happened to My Internet???

Free and Open Internet

Distributed and decentralized networks, i.e.

- Email
- IRC
- USENET
- WWW
- Gopher

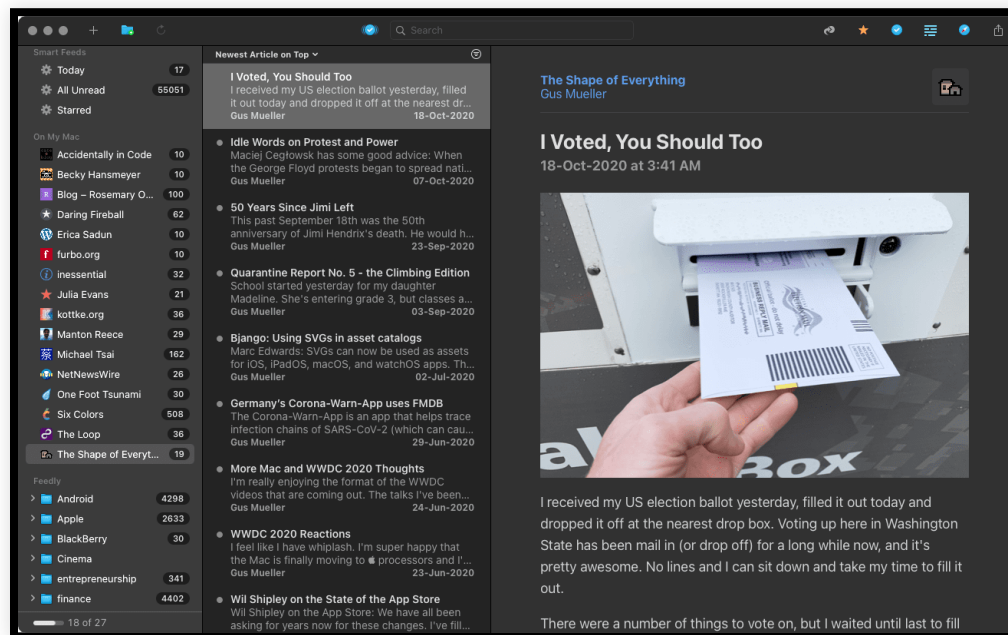# What Happened to My Internet???

Not a free Internet

Walled Gardens

- Facebook Posts
- Facebook Messenger
- Reddit/Twitter (news, etc)

Bring Back Decentralization

- Start using content driven Websites for your content.
- Remember www and RSS?
- This content can be aggregated into a feed or news reader.

Steps You Can Take to Help Protect Your Families Privacy

- Home Network (Wifi, ISP)
- Desktop (Browser/Email/Messenger)
- Mobile (GPS/Apps, etc)

Home Network

Home Network

- Firewall/Router
  - Untangle (https://untangle.com)
  - Firewalla (https://firewalla.com)
  - pfSense (Do-it-yourself) (https://pfsense.org)

Home Network

- VPN (virtual private network)
  - Express VPN
  - ProtonVPN

Home Network

- DNS settings
  - Cloudflare DNS (https://cloudflare.com)
  - PiHole (https://pi-hole.net)

Home Network

- Use Tor (The Onion Router)

Home Network

- Secure Payment Methods
  - Privacy.com

Desktop (Laptop) Privacy

Destkop

- Cover your CAMERA!

Desktop

Browser

- Stop using Chrome!
  - Use Brave (or Firefox with Privacy Badger)

Desktop

Browser

- Use Secure Passwords (Password Manager)
  - Bitwarden

Desktop

Browser

- Browser's Private Mode?
  - Worthless

Desktop

Browser

- Use SSL site encryption everywhere
  - Plugin HTTPS Everywhere
- Stop using Google Search
  - Use duckduckgo.com (or other privacy centered search engines)

Desktop

Email

- Use a paid for email service (slowly migrate from Gmail, etc)
  - FastMail (fastmail.com)
  - ProtonMail (Protonmail.com)
- Sensitive emails - send encrypted using GPG (Gnu Privacy Gaurd)
  - ProtonMail has built in GPG support

Desktop

Messaging

- Dump WhatsApp or Facebook Messenger
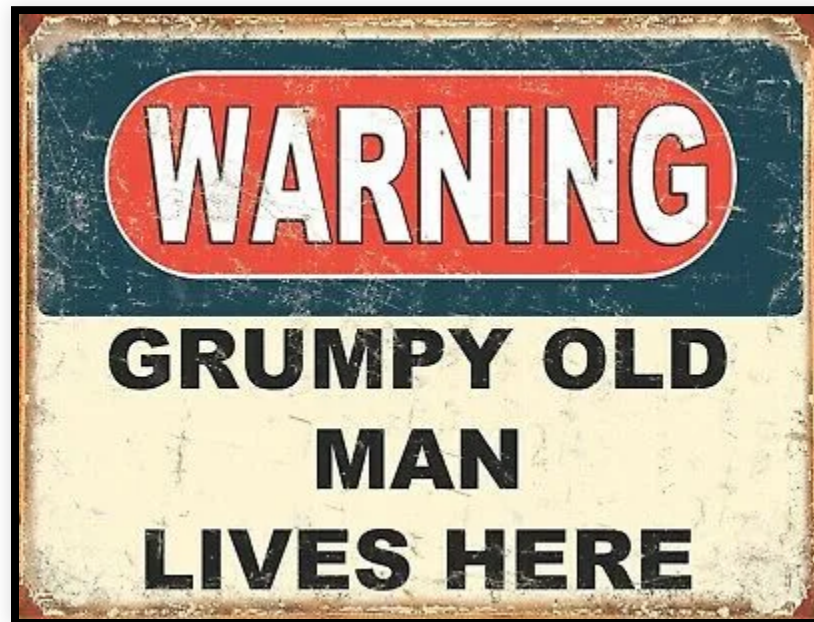- Use Signal (signal.org)

Mobile Privacy

Mobile

- Block cameras if possible.
- VPN on your phone
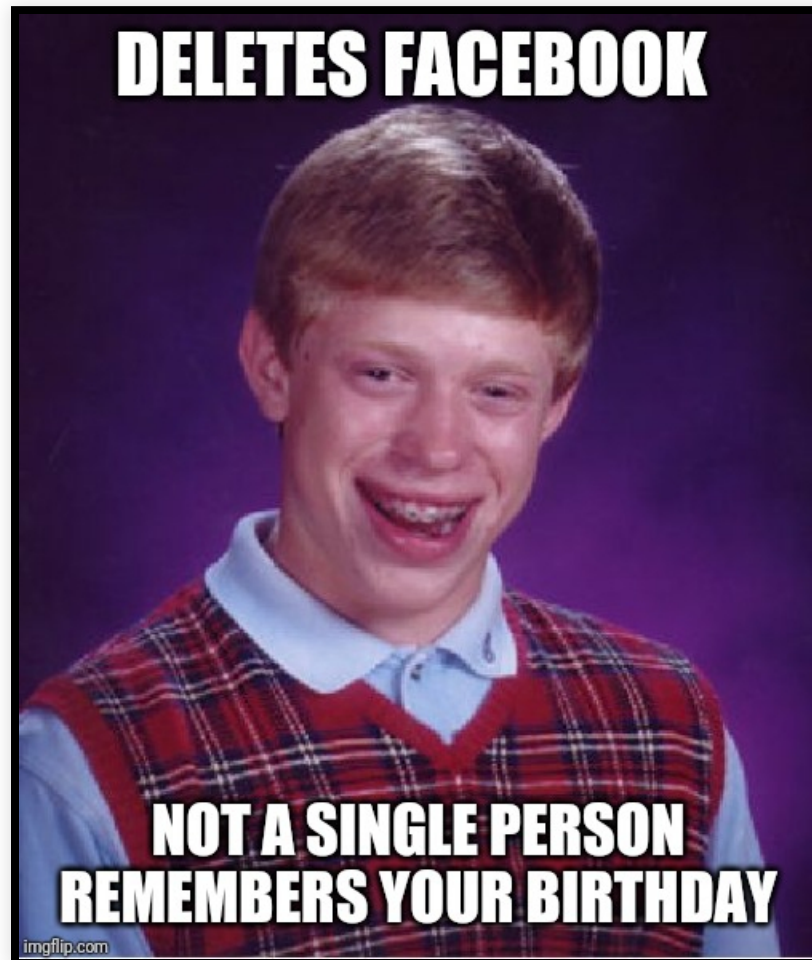- Signal app for your messaging

Social Networks

These are my opinons on the matter...

WARNING: Old guy rant coming...

Social Networks

Are They Necessary?

Social Networks

Are They Necessary?

- Can become an unhealthly addiction.
- They are free for reason.

Social Networks

Suggestions

- Think before you post
  - Who else might see this outside my "friends"
  - What possible identifying information might I be giving people.
  - Use websites and RSS feeds for your news.
- Limit your childrens exposure
  - Time limits (on screen time)
  - App restrictions
  - No on mobile apps

Conclusion

- Privacy is IMPORTANT
- Tools to help you stay private
- Social Networks

Thank you!

Slides and links