

Privacy

Facilitation Guide

Unpack and discuss issues surrounding online privacy through discussion, reflection, and exploration of various examples.

Overview

This module introduces learners to trends and developments in one of the foundational issues for all of these modules: online privacy. Learners are encouraged to discuss, explore, and consider the questions, growing challenges, and issues surrounding privacy in online and digital environments.

For more information, be sure to watch Series 5 training videos from NYC Digital Safety.

Outcomes

By the end of this module, participants will be able to:

- Define privacy, particularly in an online context
- Describe issues and challenges surrounding privacy in online and digital environments
- Identify ways to continue learning about online privacy

Format + Time Frame

This module provides a more conceptual overview of the topic of privacy online and introduces learners to trends, questions, challenges, and ongoing issues with online privacy. This module is designed to both introduce terms and concepts and to provide learners with a space for discussion, reflection, and exploration.

This module will take approximately 70 minutes to complete. The content in this module can be delivered in different ways, whether via a discussion-based workshop session or as a component in another, more hands-on, skill-building module. See below for more suggestions.

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Materials

- Slide deck
- Facilitation guide
- Handouts
 - Reading Privacy Policies
 - Updating Devices

Lesson Plan

Activity	Materials	Time Needed
Introduction and welcome Greet learners and review the plan for this module.	Slides 1 and 2	2 minutes
Discussion: Defining privacy Begin by asking your learners to define privacy. See what comes to mind, what they think, and how they conceive of the issue of privacy.	Slide 3	8 minutes
Define privacy Follow up the opening discussion by defining privacy with a standard definition and note that you'll be considering privacy in online environments more specifically for the remainder of the workshop.	Slide 4	5 minutes
Privacy and the internet Share information about privacy issues, trends, and complications in the internet age.	Slide 5	5 minutes

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<p>Privacy vs. security debate</p> <p>Introduce the long-running debate of privacy versus security, and pose questions to help learners start considering these questions in the context of the internet.</p>	Slide 6	5 minutes
<p>Activity: Online privacy issues</p> <p>Break your learners into small groups and have them discuss and share what issues they see with online privacy.</p> <p>This is a deliberately broad question, so feel free to see how the conversation develops and to interject with follow-up questions.</p>	Slide 7	15 minutes
<p>Privacy issues</p> <p>Share some current research and how Americans feel pessimistic about privacy issues.</p> <p>Share research on current major issues being discussed and considered around online privacy, including new technological developments that might pose risks to privacy.</p> <p>Note if any of these came up during the previous activity, and highlight ones that weren't mentioned.</p> <p>Pause to see if participants have a reaction to anything on the list on slide 9.</p>	Slides 8 and 9	10 minutes
<p>Activity: Protecting online privacy</p> <p>Break participants into small groups.</p>	Slide 10, handouts	15 minutes

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<p>Have them brainstorm ways that individuals can protect their online privacy.</p> <p>Have them also consider ways organizations, groups, regulators, etc. can help improve and uphold online privacy rights.</p> <p>At the end of this section, share that two big concepts (among many) in online privacy are: 1.) keeping devices updated and working well and 2.) reading privacy policies. Feel free to look to other modules in NYC Digital Safety for relevant handouts.</p>		
<p>Wrap up, final tips, and final questions</p> <p>Review the closing thoughts and share the suggested resources.</p> <p>See if anyone has any final questions.</p>	Slides 11 through 14	5 minutes

Considerations

The topics covered in module 5 are all complex and at times contentious. Privacy is a particularly broad topic and many of your learners might come in with certain experiences and ideas that will shape their view of the topic.

The main goal of the lessons in module 5 is to give learners a chance to explore, reflect, and discuss some of the major issues surrounding digital safety and our online experiences more broadly. As such, you might consider keeping the structure of this workshop fairly loose and making adjustments as needed based on how the discussion flows and the questions your learners may have. Feel free to bring in your own examples, recent stories you have read on this issue, or to revise the discussion questions posed on the slides to your liking.

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You might also consider taking some time to immerse yourself in this topic before your workshop to ensure that you are comfortable and confident with the content. The NYC Digital Safety videos and the resources suggested in the slide deck can all be great places to go to learn more. This workshop could potentially benefit from having a co-instructor to provide support and expertise, help lead discussion, or offer different perspectives.

Options and Variations

This module is designed to be conceptual in nature and can be offered in a variety of ways. You could pair parts of this module (including key definitions, examples, or discussion prompts) with other, more hands-on modules for a richer learning experience. Additionally, this module could work well as part of a longer workshop series on various digital safety topics. The content here is designed to be flexible, and you can either run this module as is, make it part of a series, or take portions of this module to use with another digital safety module of your choosing.

Privacy in particular is a theme that runs through every module, and you could bring in elements of this workshop to any other module. You could also consider repeating some of the activities here in other workshops in a series, such as the activity where participants brainstorm ways that individuals and groups can protect online privacy. This repetition could help learners build on their ideas and introduce new concepts and skills into their thinking.

One option you could consider is combining the modules on censorship, surveillance, and privacy as a way to have a more wide-ranging discussion of these connected issues. You could also run these workshops together as part of a discussion series.

Note that this module contains numerous places for discussion. If you are looking to add more discussion elements or reflection opportunities to another digital safety workshop, you could consider utilizing the prompts from this module.

This content here works best when introduced in a workshop setting where there can be a chance for questions and guided discussions. However, you can emphasize the themes and concepts included here if you are engaging with a patron one-on-one at a service point and if you are providing them with handouts and materials from other digital safety modules. You

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might also consider sharing some of the resources listed on the slides with patrons who wish to learn more about the topics and issues covered here.

Assessment

The following are some suggested assessment questions that you can use and adapt for your own purposes. These questions can help you assess various things, including knowledge retention, personal views and preferences, and concept application.

You might consider asking these as a pre or post test, or you can have learners answer these as part of an exit survey or a follow-up survey. Keep reading for suggested questions and an answer key with further details and explanations.

Questions for Participants

What is privacy?

- A. The suppression of speech, information, and public communication by different entities, including governments or private companies
- B. Freedom from being observed or disturbed by other people
- C. The monitoring of behavior, activities, or information in order to gather information or influence someone's behavior or actions
- D. Being free from danger or threats

Do you feel confident about your personal online privacy?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Unsure

Do you feel positive about online privacy issues in general?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Unsure

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What questions do you have about online privacy? What would you like to learn more about in the future?

[Free text response]

Answer Key

What is privacy?

Answer: B, Freedom from being observed or disturbed by other people

Privacy is essentially being free from observation or interference from others.

Do you feel confident about your personal online privacy?

Answer: No correct answer, individual poll

This is an opinion poll that you might consider using to get a sense of your learners' views. This could be interesting to do as a pre- and post-test question to see if anyone comes away from the workshop with changed views.

Do you feel positive about online privacy issues in general?

Answer: No correct answer, individual poll

This is an opinion poll that you might consider using to get a sense of your learners' views. This could be interesting to do as a pre- and post-test question to see if anyone comes away from the workshop with changed views.

What questions do you have about online privacy? What would you like to learn more about in the future?

Answer: Free text response

You might consider using this as a pre-test question in order to get a sense of what your learners are interested in and hope to discuss. You can use these responses to pose questions or guide discussion in your workshop.

Connections to Other Modules

This module connects to many other modules. The following suggestions provide opportunities for exploration, connection, and potential programming. However, feel free to explore and make connections between other modules not listed here as well!

This module in particular can connect with nearly every other module, given the foundational and conceptual nature of the content included. While we have listed a few suggested ones, note that this module can really connect with all other modules.

1.1 Data Generation Online

1.2 Data Minimization

2.1 Algorithms

2.1 Targeted Advertising

2.2 Doxing

2.2 Data Brokers

2.2 Social Media Settings

4.1 Avoiding Social Engineering

4.3 Technology Mindfulness

4.3 Thinking Critically

5.1 Surveillance

5.1 Privacy Divide

5.1 Censorship

These and other modules can be found at this project's website, nycdigitalsafety.org.

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About This Project

These materials were released in October 2022 as part of NYC Digital Safety: Privacy & Security.

NYC Digital Safety: Privacy & Security is a partnership between New York City's three library systems — Brooklyn Public Library, The New York Public Library, and Queens Library — and METRO Library Council. With support from the New York City Office of Technology and Innovation, this project ensures that NYC residents can rely on public libraries for their questions about internet privacy and security.

Visit nycdigitalsafety.org for more information.