Government Systems

Read: Section 2.4

1974 Privacy Act

- Restricts the data in federal government records to what is “relevant and necessary” to the legal purpose for which it was gathered
- Requires federal agencies to publish a notice of their record systems in the Federal Register
- Allows people to access their records and correct inaccuracies
- Requires procedures for data security
- Prohibits disclosure of info about a person without consent

Contains loopholes Amended in 2002
U.S. Census

- U.S. Constitution authorizes and requires the government to count the people in the U.S. every 10 years
- Requires name, gender, age, race, relationship to co-habitants
- Federal law: “in no case shall information furnished ... be used to the detriment of any ... person to whom the information relates”
- Numerous violations (1940 Japanese-American internment, post 9/11 Arab identification)

Do you favor the use of US Census data to identify undocumented aliens?

Public Record Data

- Public Records – records available to general public (bankruptcy, property, and arrest records, salaries of government employees, political contributions, etc.)
- Technology
  - On-line records
  - Massive databases
  - Correlation of data
- Issues: Identity theft, loss of privacy

Does public record data now require new access limitations?
National ID Systems

- Social Security Numbers
  - Too widely used
  - Easy to falsify
- New proposals: citizenship, employment, health, tax, financial, biometric information
- Cards might access a variety of databases

Do you support a new national ID system?