



CSE312/ISE312

Gift of Fire, Fourth edition by Sara Baase

Government Systems

Read: Section 2.4

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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

Corresponding page number: 84-85



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?

Corresponding page number:



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?

Corresponding page number: 84-90



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?

Corresponding page number: 91-95