Dupont Summit 2017

Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy

December 1, Historic Whittemore House, Washington, DC

Presentation

"Where is our data and how is it protected?"

As humans, we commit to the use of our information with levels of enthusiasm and often based on an expectation of return; categorized as the "Reciprocity Standard" of the "social exchange theory." Additionally, we infrequently honor the request for the use of information with alacrity; acutely aware of the associated risks – the risk to our very privacy; often discussed as the "Privacy Paradox." This privacy risk has increased as we become more connected through technology and has been the center of the daily news with such events as the recent Equifax data breach. These increasing events result in huge public outcry with little discussion on the root cause. This paper will attempt to address the root cause of these frequent and increasing breach through an examination of literature showing an anthology of human actions authorizing the use of information throughout our very existence. The paper will shift the focus of attention from bewilderment with the constant occurrence of data breach to a sanitizing view of contributors such as the actions of humans. Because this subject is vast with worldwide impact across cultures, its scope will be limited to and examination of the individual actions related to the data breach and a focus on our actions to minimize future occurrence. The paper will begin with a review of information sharing throughout our civilization as a back ground and progress with the mechanism used to support this human desire into the current technological era. The paper will discuss human conscious role in the process of data sharing and expectation of return along with protection of privacy. The paper will show how the expectation of privacy evolved to the current level of uncontrollability; suggesting that the path and releasably of data is both unpredictable and uncontrollable – answering the question or whether we know where our data is stored and if we can ever retain control.

Speaker
Kenneth L Williams, CISSP, *American Public University System*