



The right to disappear* / *Le droit à l'oubli*

In a recent interview with Reddit – 11 February 2013 –, Bill Gates half-jokingly ended by saying “I’d just like to leave you with the thought that helping others can be very gratifying,”... challenging his listeners to delete this picture from the Internet.

The key of the matter is not a joke. Over the Internet, images and text concerning you are not under your control. They will even live longer than you.

Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

“No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks”.

The Internet was not designed to respect this principle. Today, third parties can track the web sites you visit, collect and process information about your purchases, the people and institutions you communicate with, your personal preferences and even the medications you have used. Whether it is done on your back or abusing the permissions you have given, the problem is the same: it is public and it is not under your control.

These issues cannot be ignored anymore, since the very future of the Internet is threatened. A lack of trust is eroding on-line business growth and development. However, geopolitics play a role on the solutions proposed. Europe seeks to dictate a single set of rules on data protection, valid across all the European Union, enforced by national data protection authorities. In America, laws protecting personal data are much more permissive, allowing Internet companies to profile individual information for marketing purposes on a massive scale. A notorious rift of approaches became evident during the world conference convened by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in December 2012 to review the [International Telecommunication Regulations \(ITRs\)](#). No agreement is on sight.

The OISTE foundation proclaims that Internet has to articulate a “right to disappear” into its design. This means that individuals will be empowered to manage their personal information, including the possibility of deleting personal data if they do not want it to linger in cyberspace. If you agree, please sign the initiative: “a right to disappear”.

- Yes, I agree that introducing “a right to disappear” feature in Internet is a priority
- No, I do not agree that introducing “a right to disappear” feature is a priority in Internet

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Thank you for responding to this survey. The results are:

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

Email address (optional):