

Digital Privacy & Security: Teaching Safer Habits

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Goals for today

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- Articulate why privacy is important to librarians/library staff
- Understand threat modeling and the harm reduction approach to digital security
- Discover resources that will help transform you into a digital privacy advocate

**Why privacy in
libraries?**

Activity: Speed friending

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Break into small groups and discuss the questions below:

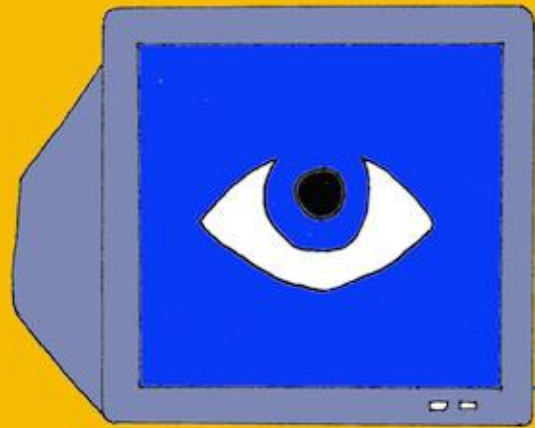
Privacy matters because...

Where does patron privacy come up in your work?

What is a digital privacy issue you wish you knew more about?

We protect each library user's right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to information sought or received and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired or transmitted.

- *American Library Association Code of Ethics*



Library Freedom Project



<https://libraryfreedomproject.org/>



13 librarians

**6 months of online classes,
5 hours of work each week
1 in-person weekend**



Topics include:

- General issues (e.g. CCTV)
- Library-specific issues (e.g. vendor privacy policies/practices)
- Technologies (e.g. Tor, Tails)
- General concepts (e.g. data minimization)

Course materials at the Library Freedom Project's Wiki:

<https://libraryfreedom.wiki>

Speakers including:

- Nasma Ahmed, Digital Justice Lab
- Eric Hellman, Free Ebook Foundation
- Caroline Sindors
- Jessie Rossman, ACLU MA
- Freddy Martinez, Lucy Parsons Lab
- Eva Galperin, Electronic Frontier Foundation
- April Glaser, Slate

Videos available at <https://vimeo.com/libraryfreedominstitute>

Key concepts

Harm reduction

Principles of Harm Reduction

(via the [Electronic Frontier Foundation](https://www.eff.org/)):

1. Everyone deserves digital security and privacy.
2. Remove the stigma of bad security or privacy practices.
3. Increasing digital safety is a process.
4. Harm reduction is collective.

See <https://sec.eff.org/articles/harm-reduction>

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Threat modeling

A method for considering the potential risks to something you wish to protect, and the steps you'll take to protect it.

More info:

<https://ssd.eff.org/en/module/your-security-plan>

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Common questions to ask when creating a threat model

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What do you want to protect? These are your **assets**.

Who do you want to protect it from? These are your **adversaries**.

What information do you want to keep private?

Who is likely to try to access it without your consent?

What are the consequences if you fail?

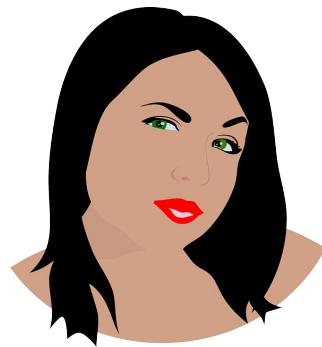
What are you willing to do to protect that information?

Example threat model assessment

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Jenny is leaving a difficult family situation and uses the library computers and wifi to access social media, look for housing, and read the news.

She is worried that a particular family member will try to track her down and intimidate, bully, or physically harm her.



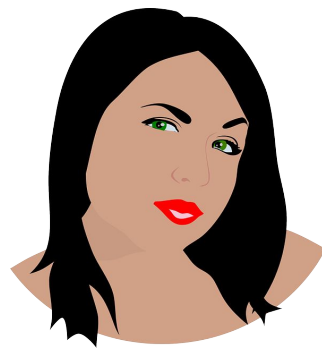
[From the Data Privacy Project's Risk Assessment Page](#)

Example threat model assessment

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The likelihood of this happening is high: for the past year, the family has depended on a family plan with their mobile phone provider. During that time, the whole family enabled phone tracking features.

In addition, her family regularly shared passwords, making it possible for different members to post social media accounts in the account holder's name.



Example threat model assessment

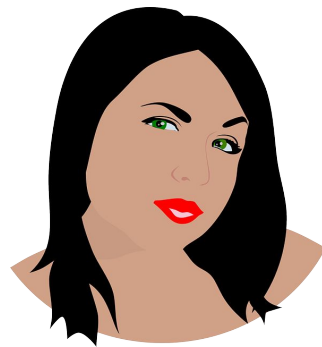
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What does she want to protect?

Location information

Who does she want to protect it from?

A potentially abusive family member



Example threat model assessment

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What information does she want to keep private?

Email messages

Social media activity

Who is likely to try to access it without her consent?

A potentially abusive family member

What are the consequences she fears?

Intimidation, bullying, or physical harm

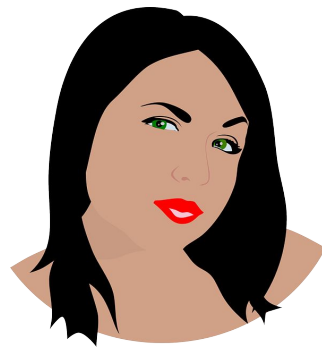


Example threat model assessment

— — —

What is she willing to do to protect that information?

- Set up new cell phone account
- Create new, strong passwords
- Set up 2-factor authentication
- Remove location information from posted photos
- Use a device lock
- Make social media settings private



Activity: Threat Modeling Assessment

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Work in a small group. Think of a patron you know or have worked with in the past that fit one of these descriptions:

- An undocumented immigrant
- A teenager in a difficult family situation
- A senior with low digital literacy

How do you think that patron would answer the threat modeling questions?



Adapting Lessons for your Library's Patrons



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Before workshop
topics are chosen, do
some background
reading and research.



Well before the workshop is scheduled, try out some of the tools for your own use. Read reviews of the ones you use.



Choose your topics. Locate lesson plans related to those topics. Adapt!

A PROJECT OF THE ELECTRONIC FRONTIER FOUNDATION



SECURITY EDUCATION COMPANION

A free resource for digital security educators

During the lesson:

Start out with threat modeling and harm reduction, but don't call it that!

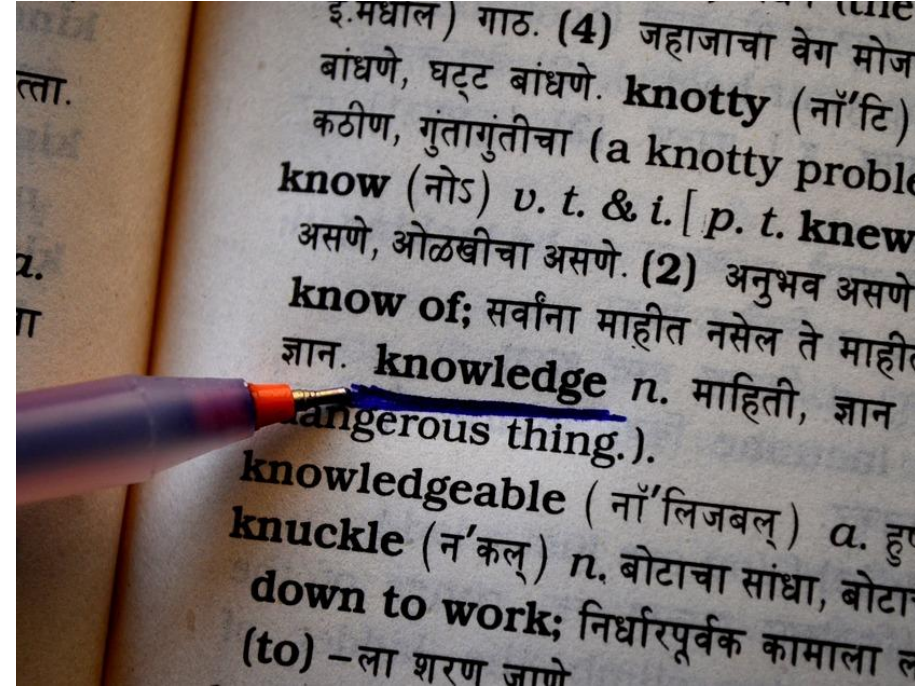
Be a cheerleader!

Don't be afraid to not know the answer.



By Quinn Dombrowski from Berkeley, USA - The all-male cheerleader team, CC BY-SA 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=22895870>

Example Activity



Create a Super Secure Passphrase: The Book Method

1. Close your eyes
2. Open your book to a random page
3. Put your finger somewhere on the page
4. Open your eyes and write down the word closest to your finger.
5. If the word is a very common (easy to guess) word, go back to step 1.

Repeat steps 1-5 four more times, giving you a total of five words.

Voila! You have a new passphrase.

Thank you!