



## Concerned About Privacy Violations?

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If you are concerned about privacy violations, join the club. There are several events relating to citizen privacy rights happening right now that concern me.

### Privacy Violation 1: HUD (Housing and Urban Development)

Now even HUD is trying to define how we live. In February, as sales of RVs hit a 39-year high with 35,929 units sold, HUD published a proposed rule in The Federal Register to revise the definition of an RV as “designed only for recreational use and not as a primary residence or for permanent occupancy.” HUD is including the budding Tiny House on Wheels industry for good measure.

For some strange reason, the RV industry thinks this is a grand gesture and is the main push behind this rule. They apparently struggle with the HUD rules for mobile homes and need clarity for the RV manufacturers. This may push RV manufacturers to improve the quality of construction, or at least curtail the use of chemicals that make fires burn hotter. The fact that the RV industry wants this new rule, however, indicates some bottom line issue is the reason for the change.

Needless to say, the Escapees RV Club jumped in right away with a letter to HUD indicating that this bureaucracy should bow out and leave it to the local communities. This new ruling may not affect full-time RV travelers but it allows HUD to regulate an area not now under its jurisdiction.

Read the rest of the story [HERE](#).

### Privacy Violation 2: Encryption Issues

California Assembly Bill 1681 is calling to eliminate encryption on all cell phones. If this is passed, it instructs all cellphone manufacturers to eliminate any type of encryption on your phone purchased in California. Of course you can, if you live in California, just cross the border to buy your phone in another state, or add a security app.

This Bill issue developed because of the fight between Apple and the Feds over a backdoor denied. If you have been following this, it is of major importance to all Internet and wireless users. Most of the major tech companies stand behind Apple because they see the future if they fail to discourage the Feds.



The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), who most of us recognize as a protector of our privacy, posts its explanation as to why this bill is nonsense. Read the rest of the story [HERE](#). For a more complete look at the threats to data privacy, read [MORE](#).

For an interesting and humorous take on the Apple-Feds debate, watch John Oliver's (of the old Daily Show fame) take on this issue [HERE \(video\)](#).

### **Privacy Violation 3: Behavioral Targeting Ads**

Do you ever get the sense that advertisements you see online know more about you than you might expect? Have you ever wondered why you're being shown an ad for a product, only to realize later that you might actually be the kind of person who would want to buy it?

If so, it's likely that the ads appearing on your screen have been behaviorally targeted.

#### **Identifying Behavioral Targeting**

How can you tell that an ad has been behaviorally targeted?

Take a close look at some of the ads you see on your favorite websites, like Yahoo or Gawker (unless you have an ad blocker running). When you look at the upper right hand corner of the ad, do you see a little blue triangle? Maybe a tiny "AdChoices" script? If so, BINGO!



The AdChoices icon is a symbol affixed to an ad denoting that it was selected for you based on your past online behavior.

Although there is no legal mandate to disclose when an ad is behaviorally targeted, the Digital Advertising Alliance – an industry group that enforces privacy practices – responded to Federal Trade Commission-issued guidelines by promoting use of the icon among advertisers and by trying to educate the public. Both initiatives are aimed at addressing privacy concerns among consumers.

Read the details [HERE](#).

To **Opt Out** of the AdChoices targeting program, click [HERE](#).

### **Privacy Violation 4: Encryption (DRM) on eBooks, Audio and Video**

The Internet is one of the last connections to freedom for most of us. If you gain some knowledge about how to use it, you can research and view information all over the world. It even allows the user to download information to their own private archive and view it years later, long after it disappears online.

The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), along with The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) and a few other entities, are the white knights of the Net.

The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), the nonprofit body that maintains the Web's core standards, made a terrible mistake in 2013: they decided to add DRM . . . the digital locks that train your computer to say "I can't let you do that, Dave"; rather than "Yes, boss" . . . to the Web's standards.

At the time, EFF fought the proposal on a principled basis: DRM has no place in the open Internet because of the many ways it shuts down legal, legitimate activities.

The EFF lost their battle, so they came back with a new proposal: the W3C could have its cake and eat it too. It could adopt a rule that requires members who help make DRM standards to promise not to sue people who report bugs in tools that conform to those standards, nor could they sue people just for making a standards-based tool that connected to theirs.

They could use DRM, but only if they made sure that they took steps to stop that DRM from being used to attack the open Web.

It gets worse. In practice, it's not hard to break DRM, so to slow the spread of information about how to remove the locks on the stuff YOU OWN, laws like the *Digital Millennium Copyright Act*, has been used to punish disclosure of bugs and defects.

This doesn't mean that bad guys—enemy spies, cyber arms-dealers, voyeurs, and identity thieves—don't discover and weaponize these bugs. It just means that you don't get to learn about them until they are used in a high-profile attack, or until a brave security researcher risks a lawsuit to come forward.

Read the whole story [HERE](#).

The threat of losing OUR open Internet is once again raising its ugly head. We fought back and won with Internet Neutrality, we can do it again. Keep the Internet OPEN, get rid of DRM.

## The RV Lifestyle Collection by Margo Armstrong



Click on the Covers for Info

