

PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY



Name: _____

Date: _____

The internet's a great place to learn, but did you know that the websites you're browsing are also learning a little bit about you, too? Sound weird? Well, it's kinda how the web works, but not all websites are trustworthy. Some sites keep your info locked in a bank vault and others carry it around in a backpack.

Your school and teachers are looking out for you, but there are some things **you** can look for that'll boost your security smarts.

Directions

1. Go to the website approved by your teacher: www. _____
2. Complete the four investigations below. At the end of each investigation, decide whether the site "Seems Legit" or is "Kinda Iffy," and put an "X" on the line.
3. When you've completed your investigations, fill out the analysis at the bottom of the page.

Key



Investigations (required)



Special investigations (optional depending on what you find)



Notes for documenting your findings and questions

Investigation

ENCRYPTION



Encryption (which conceals your information through code) is one way websites can better hide your info. How do you know if a site is encrypted? Check the site's URL in the browser search bar. Do you see a lock symbol and/or "https" instead of "http"? That means it's encrypted.

SEEMS LEGIT _____ KINDA IFFY _____



If the website is encrypted (if not, skip this one): Sometimes you can remove the "s" and still visit the site. Try deleting the "s" from "https" and then pressing enter/return. Did it remove the lock and load the website? What do you think that means?

SEEMS LEGIT _____ KINDA IFFY _____



WHAT DID YOU FIND?

PRIVACY POLICIES



A privacy policy spells out what info a site collects and how it uses and/or shares that info. It should be easy to find (pro tip: check the bottom of the page) and should also be available on any page asking for your personal info (like a sign-up or login page).

SEEMS LEGIT _____ KINDA IFFY _____



If you found the privacy policy (if not, skip this one): The best policies are written in plain language that anyone -- not just lawyers -- can understand. Do you think the policy you found passes the test?

SEEMS LEGIT _____ KINDA IFFY _____



WHAT DID YOU FIND?

Continue to the next page

ACCOUNTS



Some sites let people create accounts and log in. This gives the site some info about you and can make a site more interactive and personalized. Sites that are kid-friendly and allow you to create an account must ask for your age. Why? Well, if you're under 13, your parent or caregiver must approve your account before you can use it. It's the law.

Take a look at the home page of the site you're investigating. Do you think it's meant to be kid-friendly and/or educational? Is it possible to create an account and log in? If so, continue with your investigation. If not, head straight to the "Analysis" section.

Check out the page where you can create an account. (**DON'T enter any actual information. Just take a look.**) Does this page allow you to select "kid" or "student" vs. "teacher" or "adult"? Does it ask for your age? Does it ask you for a ton of other info or only a couple things?

SEEMS LEGIT _____ KINDA IFFY _____



WHAT DID YOU FIND?

Analysis



Now that you're done investigating, think about what you found. How risky does the site seem to you? What are you still unsure about and would like to research and/or discuss?

Next Steps

- The next time you visit a website, take a little time to think critically about these privacy and security issues. Can you spot anything questionable? If you do, discuss with your teacher, parent, or caregiver.
- If you're interested in learning more, check out Mozilla's Observatory tool (<https://observatory.mozilla.org/>). Enter a website (maybe even the one you investigated), and see how it scores. A lot of sites you'll look at won't score well, but that doesn't necessarily mean they're bad, just that there's a lot of room to grow.