Privacy in the Information Age:
A National Academies Study

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The National Academies

• Umbrella organization for
  – National Academy of Science
  – National Academy of Engineering
  – Institute of Medicine
  – National Research Council

• Conducts studies for
  – Government, private institutions
  – Makes policy and funding recommendations
Study Charter

• Assess current and future state
  – Current threats to privacy
  – Uses of technology for and against privacy

• Make recommendations to
  – Policy makers
  – Research funding agencies
  – Educators
Study Participants

- Lloyd Cutler, co-chair
- William Webster, co-chair
- Jim Waldo, vice chair
- Julie Cohen
- Robert Crandall
- Oscar Gandy
- James Horning
- Gary King
- Ellen Knapp
- Brent Lowensohn
- Gary Marx
- Helen Nissenbaum
- Robert O'Neil
- Janey Place
- Ron Rivest
- Theresa Schwartz
- Lynette Millett
Study Process and Schedule

• Public and private meetings
  – Hear from experts, advocates
  – Discuss within the committee
  – Product: a written, reviewed report

• Schedule
  – Started June, 2002
  – Hope to have review draft end of 2003
Why Now?

• Technical
  – Advances in
    • Processors
    • Bandwidth
    • Storage
  – Advances in sensors
• Security climate
• Changing expectations
What Is Privacy?

• Legal notions
  – Right to be left alone
  – 1\textsuperscript{st}, 4\textsuperscript{th} amendments

• Philosophical basis
  – Autonomy
  – Information control

• Intuitions are similar, analysis hard
What Can be Done, and Where

• Laws are difficult
  – Tend to be reactive
  – Lots of unintended consequences

• What jurisdictions
  – Hard within the US
  – Worldwide much more variation
Technology and Privacy

• Some threats are real
  – Surprising what data is out there
  – Identity theft a growing problem

• Some are science fiction
  – Data mining
  – Predictive analysis

• Hard to tell the difference
Policy Questions

• How Public are public records
  – A vast difference between
    • Available at the courthouse
    • Available on the web

• We have a tradition of
  – Access
  – Privacy

• These traditions conflict
For More Information

• Committee Website
  – http://www.cstb-privacy.org/

• Next pubic meeting
  – May, 2003
  – Probably Washington, D.C.
  – Details available on the web site