



Ctrl + Z: The Right to Be Forgotten

By Meg Leta Jones

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Ctrl + Z: The Right to Be Forgotten By Meg Leta Jones

“This is going on your permanent record!” is a threat that has never held more weight than it does in the Internet Age, when information lasts indefinitely. The ability to make good on that threat is as democratized as posting a Tweet or making blog. Data about us is created, shared, collected, analyzed, and processed at an overwhelming scale. The damage caused can be severe, affecting relationships, employment, academic success, and any number of other opportunities—and it can also be long lasting.

One possible solution to this threat? A digital right to be forgotten, which would in turn create a legal duty to delete, hide, or anonymize information at the request of another user. The highly controversial right has been criticized as a repugnant affront to principles of expression and access, as unworkable as a technical measure, and as effective as trying to put the cat back in the bag. Ctrl+Z breaks down the debate and provides guidance for a way forward. It argues that the existing perspectives are too limited, offering easy forgetting or none at all. By looking at new theories of privacy and organizing the many potential applications of the right, law and technology scholar Meg Leta Jones offers a set of nuanced choices. To help us choose, she provides a digital information life cycle, reflects on particular legal cultures, and analyzes international interoperability. In the end, the right to be forgotten can be innovative, liberating, and globally viable.

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Editorial Review

Review

"The legal and moral implications require a rethinking of much of what we take for granted, and Jones is plugged in to many of the conversations."-*Inside Higher Ed*

"In language accessible to non-specialists, enriched by an interdisciplinary outlook and a plethora of examples and case law, Jones draws on legal cultures, international feasibility and interoperability and detailed information about the information life cycle, and argues that both approaches, favouring and opposing the right to be forgotten, take only a partial view on the matter."-Stefania Milan,*Times Higher Education*

"[T]he book's strength is its ability to inspire, and that is what makes *Ctrl + Z* a pleasure to read. In proposing the idea of information stewardship, it may give us some guidance towards a solution to this complex and controversial policy issue."-,The London School of Economics' "United States Politics and Policy" blog

"In this timely and provocative book, Meg Jones takes on one of the most pressing issues of the digital age—must everything about us be permanently stored or is there room in our society and legal system for a 'right to be forgotten?' Jones' great contribution is to cut through the rhetoric and extremism to chart a middle path: one in which we can have privacy and freedom of speech, in which we can access information without being constantly under the microscope ourselves. A must-read book for anyone interested in the Internet, privacy, or freedom of speech. *Ctrl + Z* is sophisticated yet readable, scholarly yet contemporary, and an essential contribution to how we think about rights of deletion in a digital age."-Neil Richards, Washington University in St. Louis

"[B]y laying out the terrain so thoughtfully, and highlighting the concepts that should guide our actions, Jones has created the groundwork for a much needed conversation on the profound problem of permanent digital ballasts in the 21st century."-*The New York Times Book Review*

"The so-called 'right to be forgotten' has become a firestorm of controversy in today's Digital Age. Should individuals have a right to have data about themselves deleted or made more obscure? With great thoughtfulness and insight, Meg Leta Jones's *Ctrl + Z* explores the right to be forgotten, avoiding the exaggerations and dispelling the myths that often appear in debates about the issue. Fascinating and accessible, *Ctrl + Z* addresses all dimensions of the right to be forgotten—the law of different countries, the nature of the technology, and the arguments on each side. The result is a truly unforgettable book that grapples with the right to be forgotten with great nuance and erudition."-Daniel J. Solove, John Marshall Harlan Research Professor of Law, George Washington University

"Meg Leta Jones, an assistant professor at Georgetown University, is one of the more interesting observers of the web and the persistence of its content."-*ZDNet.com*

"Meg Leta Jones is the preeminent American scholar of the Right to Be Forgotten, a concept born in Europe. This fascinating book is a must-read for anyone, American or European alike, vexed about what to do (or not to do) about the persistence of memory online."-Paul Ohm, Georgetown University

"[CTRL+Z] advocates that online privacy is a pressing issue, but the United States government just keeps

procrastinating on the matter. As important as the issue is, it just doesn't appear to be on many people's minds--yet."-Popmatters.com

"Ctrl + Z argues powerfully that we should all take the advice of Google's Eric Schmidt and be more careful about how we interact with one another online."-Financial Times

"A crucial question in the digital age is whether society will reclaim our ability to forget. The right to be forgotten raises important questions of free speech, privacy, reputation, and dignity. Jones's book wrestles with these questions with rigor. An indispensable read for those interested in exploring the pressing issue of reinvention in an era when networked tools do not forget."-Danielle Keats Citron, Lois K. Macht Research Professor, University of Maryland

About the Author

Meg Leta Jones is Assistant Professor of Communication, Culture, & Technology at Georgetown University.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Concepcion Maldonado:

This Ctrl + Z: The Right to Be Forgotten book is not really ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book is actually information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get info which is getting deeper you actually read a lot of information you will get. This specific Ctrl + Z: The Right to Be Forgotten without we comprehend teach the one who examining it become critical in pondering and analyzing. Don't end up being worry Ctrl + Z: The Right to Be Forgotten can bring any time you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' become full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even phone. This Ctrl + Z: The Right to Be Forgotten having fine arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

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