

WORKOUT 03

The Privacy Quiz

The goal here is to better understand the privacy rights in your state. It may well be that there are none. It all starts with awareness. Fill in the blanks below to better understand your state's privacy legislation.



Questions

- 1. Does comprehensive privacy legislation exist at a national level?**

2. Does your state currently have a comprehensive privacy law?

3. If your state doesn't have a comprehensive privacy law does that mean you don't have privacy rights?

Answers

1. Does comprehensive privacy legislation exist at a national level?

It does not... yet! The U.S is a little behind in comparison to some of our global counterparts. We do not yet have data privacy laws at the national level that protect consumers. But the FTC's Rulemaking on Commercial Surveillance and Data Security is promising and might be just as effective as a national privacy legislation. In fact, I took a look at [CR's comments to the rulemaking](#) and am hopeful about a possible Rule that creates stronger requirements for companies to respect consumer privacy. So, while there is no comprehensive privacy law at the national level directly protecting consumers, there are regulations in the works and new state privacy laws passing every year!

2. Does your state currently have a comprehensive privacy law?

Nope, not in my state. To see if my state currently has privacy legislation, I referenced the CR "Study Card" from this week's warm up and did a quick Google search. I used the [IAPP US State Privacy Legislation Tracker](#) and found that I do not have an active bill in my state (I live in Illinois, where there's a bill that covers biometrics but doesn't include a comprehensive set of consumer protections). I reached out to my friends at CR at community@cr.consumer.org and they confirmed it. But fear not! They also mentioned we can expect dozens of privacy bills introduced in 2024. I bookmarked the [CR advocacy page here](#) so I can keep up as the privacy legislation space develops.

3. If your state doesn't have a comprehensive privacy law does that mean you don't have privacy rights?

Well, there are some resources out there like [CR's Permission Slip app](#) that make it far easier for consumers to make a rights request (i.e. a request to opt-out of data sales or to ask the company to delete their data). Some businesses may voluntarily honor your request. However, to legally obligate a business to respond, your state needs a comprehensive privacy law that allows authorized agents to send consumer rights requests. That's why it's so important for us to keep advocating and petitioning for better privacy laws on a state level, and more protection for consumers at a national level. I feel ready to dive into CR's stretch goals so I can tell CR how I feel about data privacy in my State.