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Ctrl + Z: The Right To Be Forgotten
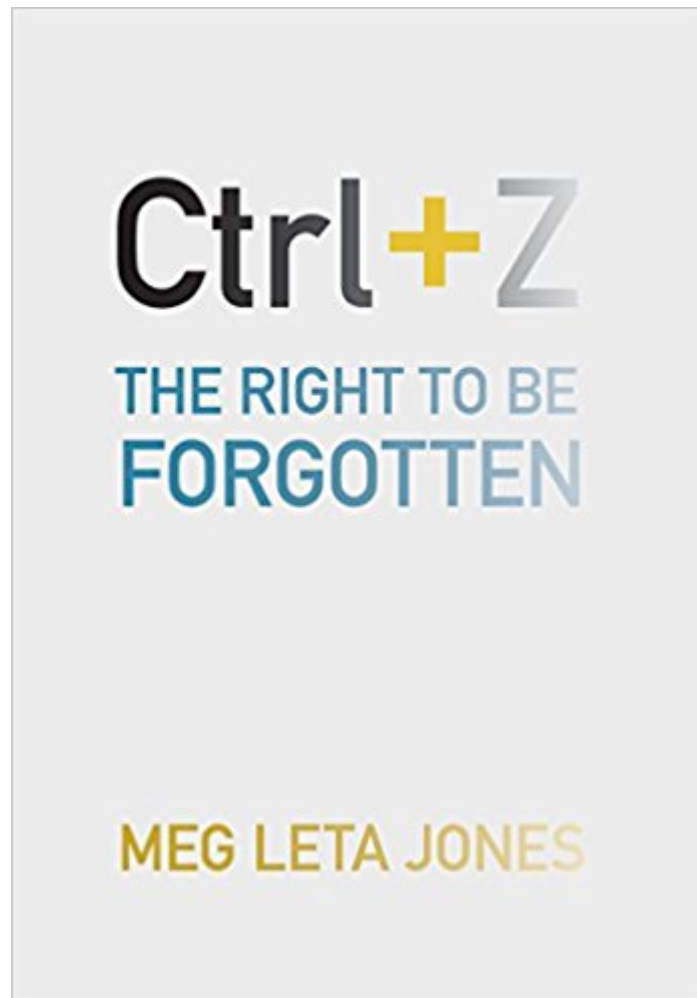
Synopsis

A gripping insight into the digital debate over data ownership, permanence and policyÂ â œThis is going on your permanent record!â • 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 opportunitiesâ ”and it can also be long lasting.Â Â 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.Â 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. Â Â

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Customer Reviews

â œIn 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 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.â •-Stefania Milan,Times Higher Education"[T]he bookâ ™s strength is its ability to inspire, and that is what makesÂ Ctrl + ZÂ 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"The so-called 'right to be forgotten' has become a firestorm of controversy in todayâ ™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 Jonesâ ™s Ctrl + Z explores the right to be forgotten, avoiding the exaggerations and dispelling the myths that often appear in debates about the issue. Â Fascinating and accessible, Ctrl + Z addresses all dimensions of the right to be forgottenâ "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 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"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"[A] groundbreaking comparative work."-Harvard Law Review"In this timely and provocative book, Meg Jones takes on one of the most pressing issues of the digital ageâ "must everything about us be permanently stored or is there room in our society and legal system for a 'right to be forgotten?' Jonesâ ™ 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"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"[CTRL+Z] advocates that online privacy is a pressing issue, but the United States government just keeps procrastinating on the matter.Â As important as the issue is, it just doesn't appear to be on many people's minds--yet."-Popmatters.comâ œCtrl + ZÂ argues powerfully that we should all take the advice of Googleâ ™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

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

Ctrl + Z provides a well researched and nuanced analysis of @BigPrivacy issues raised by the Right To Be Forgotten in the context of balancing @BigPrivacy and Big Data promises for individuals and society as a whole. Ctrl + Z is destined to be an authoritative reference in this area.Key highlights follow:- The storage, aggregation, and processing of all this information is organized and analyzed to provide utility and efficiency. Together these technological advancements have contributed to incredible social shifts in the way information is created, shared, and understood, leaving overwhelming informational vulnerabilities.- Predictive analytics often fill in the blanks we leave in our data trails. These are not characteristics that are expressed or collected through our actions but holes in our digital dossiers that get filled on the basis of the characteristics of others like us.- Conversations like the one concerning the right to be forgotten do not put the brakes on new tools or progress or knowledge. They are an opportunity to be innovative about innovationÃ¢Â Â" to be critical and forward thinking. They allow us to embrace uncertainty and ready ourselves to make choices that support flourishingÃ¢Â Â" whatever that means. The enthusiasm for innovation should not be stifled by the protection of values like privacy and expression but animated to optimize man-machine systems to promote human flourishing. Innovation should be a question of how to have oneÃ¢Â Â™s cake and eat it too, or at least how to maximize social gains brought by new technologies and minimize any damages or exclusions.- Information stewardship should be supported by law but must also be socially and technically interoperable. We must all be stewards. Before you delete your next Facebook post, tweet, blog, comment, email, set of cookies, or chat,

consider whether you are destroying history or exercising your power to participate in your digital identity.

I found this detailed account more suited to media lawyers and legislators, than to a general readership, which is why I am not rating it more highly, but I applaud the careful research and attention to detail.With private matters surfacing on the net decades after the incidents may have occurred, some people want information about them struck off the public record. But search engines never forget, do they? A teacher lost her contract after films of her as an exotic dancer decades previously surfaced, while a man took a court action regarding the fact that he was listed as a debtor after he had cleared the matter.The account looks at how laws had to catch up with life as the net and data storage evolved. While don't forget that data disks can be corrupted and the contents lost. I found some of the issues very interesting and others were like wading through legal treacle so your understanding of and need for various parts will colour your approach.I recommend The Smart Girl's Guide To Privacy by Violet Blue for those who want to know exactly how to protect themselves online from stalkers, con artists and sites that sell their data.I downloaded a copy from Net Galley for an unbiased review.

As someone who teaches Computer-Mediated Communication, explaining to students the reality of the internet and how nothing is ever really deleted is an increasing problem in the 21st Century. I'm very thankful that the internet did not exist when I was a teenager or college student. This book reviews a serious topic that few really consider in the digital age.

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