



**Australian
Privacy
Foundation**

LETTER TO EDITOR

Never surrender in privacy fight

Australian Financial Review, 4 July 2006, p.53

Your defeatist article on privacy, in *AFR Magazine* ("Private viewing", July), quoted almost entirely from an array of people who for their own commercial interests would dearly love people to give up their privacy, and with it the security of their personal information, not to mention their dignity, freedom of expression, religion and association.

Where was the independent or expert voice - or even an attempt to define the notion of privacy?

The notion of young people posting their personal information in blogs to be read by their friends, yet being worried that that information could be misused by someone for whom it was not intended, is a perfect illustration that privacy concerns are indeed alive and well in the Net Generation. (Just wait until they realise in a job interview that they've already been Googled, and the potential boss has read all about their partying habits.)

Although privacy is clearly under threat - primarily from scare-mongering politicians propping up support for extraordinary police and security agency powers, proposed national population databases and the like - this is no reason for surrender.

Just as we don't submit to spammers, drug traffickers or terrorists despite the immensity of the struggle, there is no reason for individuals or governments to roll over and give up on protecting privacy and personal information security.

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