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## Data Privacy Week 2023...

### ...the perfect time to improve protection of your privacy

Think about this, for example:

#### **Can your online post really last forever?**

**YES!** Post, share, tweet, save & repeat... On the internet everything can be searched, found & shared. Even if you've deleted the post, nothing is ever really gone. Think before you click!

Everything you post online has the potential to become public and PERMANENT. When you delete a post from social media, it may not really be gone. Often, it remains in the servers (large computers) of the social media company, so they can continue to use it. This explains how they can remind you of posts you made years back, even if you had already erased those posts!

#### **What can you do about it?**

**Assume that all your posts, texts, and messages are public.** Anyone can copy your posts, save them, and distribute them...even if you've deleted them on your end. Don't post anything you wouldn't want seen by a parent, teacher, or someone you care about.

**Be patient and think about the future.** Take a minute to pause and think before you post. Could this hurt anyone else's feelings? Am I comfortable with this information being public, forever? Could this hurt me or others in the future? Will someone be sad because of my post?

**Set your privacy settings.** Pay attention to what sites and apps you use and control who sees your information.

**Remove past posts you're not comfortable with.** If you have pictures or posts you regret, minimize the risks and take them down.

**This year, spend some time during Data Privacy Week making sure your privacy is top of mind.**