

Ranking Digital Rights: How Privacy Engineers Can Help

Presented by Nathalie Maréchal

Abstract

Ranking Digital Rights (RDR) is a non-profit research initiative housed at New America's Open Technology Institute, working with an international network of partners to set global standards for how companies in the information and communications technology (ICT) sector should respect human rights. RDR produces a Corporate Accountability Index evaluating the world's most powerful internet, mobile, and telecommunications companies on their disclosed policies and practices affecting freedom of expression and privacy. Senior Research Fellow Dr. Nathalie Maréchal will discuss the project's history, research methodology, and impact before exploring how privacy engineers can help hold companies accountable for respecting human rights.

Bio

Nathalie Maréchal is a Senior Research Fellow at Ranking Digital Rights. She leads RDR's methodology development process to expand the Corporate Accountability Index to include new company types and issue areas. She was previously a COMPASS Fellow (Summer 2014), an OTF Senior Fellow in Information Controls (2016), and a Senior Research Fellow (2016-2017) at RDR. In these roles she led methodology development concerning mobile ecosystems, helped develop the Digital Standard in partnership with Consumer Reports, led a small team working to apply RDR's privacy and human rights evaluative framework to develop indicators for evaluating national digital ID systems, and contributed research and analysis to the Corporate Accountability Index. Fluent in French and Spanish, Nathalie is a frequent speaker at digital rights events and academic conferences around the world. Her work has been published by the International Journal of Communication, the Global Commission on Internet Governance, Media and Communication, and Slate. She holds a PhD in Communication from the Annenberg School at the University of Southern California, an MA in International Communication from the School of International Service at American University, and a BA in International Studies, also from AU. Nathalie is based in Washington, DC.