

Get Off The List

A work in progress by David Vine

Over the years our identities get spread around. Pre-1980 there wasn't much worry unless you were a criminal. Today, every time you write or enter your name you risk being put on a "list." In some cases this is good and in others it's bad.

For example, if you're a Fly Fisherman and you subscribe to "Fly Fishing Monthly" there's a chance your name will be sold along with thousands of other subscribers who will receive a specialty fly fishing catalog. In the worst case scenario your identity is stolen and when the big-ticket items show up you're in for a shock and many years of frustration.

So, if you want to get off lists here are some suggestions:

National Databases

The Privacy Rights Clearinghouse presents a comprehensive [directory of Data vendors](#) that offer an opt out (list removal) policy.

The Federal Trade Commission maintains the National Do Not Call [Registry](#) and a complaint page for [Spam](#) reporting.

The major credit bureaus jointly offer an [OptOutPrescreen](#) page to get off lists used to mail credit card or insurance offers/applications via postal mail.

EPIC [Online Guide](#) to Privacy Resources

Federal Trade Commission's Sharing Your Personal Information: It's Your Choice [page](#)

The Direct Marketing Association maintains a [Data Security](#) page with many links. This is an issue of great concern when large consumer databases are hacked.

World Privacy Center's [Consumer Tips](#): How to Opt-Out of Cookies That Track You

Yahoo Marketing [Opt-Out page](#) and Directory

ZABASEARCH [Record Blocking](#) page

Internet Telephone Directories

Dogpile Update Your Listing enables you to get out of the Internet phone book they maintain. If you are not listed fine. If you are you'll find an Update/Removal button. Click that and you have the option of doing either but you must provide a confirmation email address. What will they do with it? Your guess is as good as mine.

Google Phonebook [Name Removal](#) page

MAPQUEST'S [page](#) with links to several online directories' opt out pages.

Reverse Phone Detective [Database Opt-Out](#) page

Removing Your Contact Information From [WhitePages.com](#)

Yahoo provides a straightforward [page](#) to remove email and postal listings.

Yahoo! People Search's [Remove Phone Listing](#) page

InfoSpace has an [update/remove](#) White Pages listing page. InfoSpace is key because they provide directory services to many other web sites.

Background Information

Electronic Frontier Foundation's [Privacy](#) page

Federal Trade Commission's [Privacy Initiatives](#) page

FindLaw presents Can We Stop [Zabasearch...?](#)

The National Association of Realtors offers a [Field Guide](#) to Do-Not-Call, Do-Not-Fax, and Do-Not-E-Mail Laws.

[Privacy Digest](#)

PRIVACY Notes comprehensive Your Phone Number is Your Ticket to Online Privacy Invasion [page](#)

Privacy Journal's [Tips for Individual and Companies](#)

Privacy Rights Clearinghouse Junk Mail: How Did They All Get My Address? [page](#)

Social Science Research Network presents a [paper](#) titled “Digital Dossiers and the Dissipation of Fourth Amendment Privacy.”

Yahoo's [Privacy Center](#) page with more than you'll ever want to know about how they track you.