

November, 2018

Right to be forgotten

QR1. Changing the subject now, how familiar are you with a concept called “the right to be forgotten”?
Would you say you ...

Are quite familiar with this
Know a little bit about it
Have only heard the phrase
Have never heard of this until now

[STANDALONE SCREEN]

Broadly speaking, “the right to be forgotten” is a legal concept recognized in the European Union that deals with the way personal information is treated online.

Specifically, it is a person’s right to petition search engines like Google to remove references to embarrassing or irrelevant information about themselves from search results. Common examples of the kind of information people might want to have “forgotten” by search engines include:

- References to criminal charges or convictions that happened a long time ago
- Intimate photos or videos published without consent (sometimes called “revenge porn”)
- Posts expressing an offensive or ill-considered opinion that one no longer holds

QR2. Do you personally know of anyone who has experienced this kind of situation – in which negative information from a person’s past follows them online?

No, no one I know
Yes, an acquaintance
Yes, a close friend or family member
Yes, this has happened to me, personally

QR3. As mentioned, the European Union has enacted “right to be forgotten” laws, which state that search engines such as Google can be required to remove references to negative information that turns up in online searches, upon request.

What is your overall view of this legal concept? Would you say:

[RANDOMIZE]

People should have a “right to be forgotten” and have search results changed so this kind of negative information doesn’t dominate their online record forever
Internet searches are a form of public record, erasing negative information – even long past or no longer relevant – is still erasing history and facts

[ANCHOR]Not sure/Can’t say

QR4. Would you support or oppose Canada adopting a “right to be forgotten” law, which would allow Canadians to petition Google and other search engines to remove references to negative information from their pasts from search results?

Strongly support

Support

Oppose

Strongly oppose

Not sure/Can't say