PRIVACY 101: RISK ASSESSMENTS

WHAT IS A RISK ASSESSMENT?

Risk assessments, also known as "threat models," are how we understand our specific privacy and security needs.

A SECURITY MINDSET

A security mindset is an important part of a risk assessment. It means asking questions like:

- What data trail am I creating (when I do X)? Is this data trail necessary for what I want to do, or can I minimize it?
- Where is my data going? Who can see it? How might they use it?
- Who else is impacted by my privacy and security choices? Are there people in my life who are more vulnerable than me who I may be at risk when I do X?
- How might my risks change in the future?
- What conditions would change my current risk assessment?

RISK ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

What do I want to protect?
Ex: My identity while protesting.

Who do I want to protect it from?
Ex: Bad actors who may wish to doxx or harm me.

What are the consequences if I fail?
Ex: An online harassment campaign against me.

How likely are these consequences?
Ex: This has happened to people I know.

How much work am I willing to do to protect myself?
Ex: I'm willing to cover my face, hair, and other identifying features.