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Children's online privacy code | My thoughts
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Dear Whomever may read this

I am a 16 year old who lives in Brisbane, I grew up with a mixed use of social media, and even though you think with the past two laws (under 16s ban) and this (everything must verify) laws, you are making kids more vulnerable online.

Firstly I'd like to address the under 16s law as we were given NO TIME AT ALL for feedback. I turned 16 in February, and for about 3 months after the law's introduction, I was 15. The problem was many, and I mean most kids HATED this law. Instead of requiring the platforms to make them safer for everybody, you pushed verification that could be hacked, bypassed and was very inaccurate and stupid. I didn't get a popup until AFTER I turned 16 on YT and youtube was the only social media I used. Parental controls already existed, parents were just not told/didn't want to use them, and kids were safer when they had less information loose on the internet.

And so if that law was controversial, this law was going to be as well. I have read thorough and all I see is a clear misunderstanding of how people want safe privacy.

These points were the good points:

- no misleading permissions
- make permission current

The problem is, most websites do not need anything more than a username, a password, or a button to sign in with an email. A soccer app does not need access to photos, and schools should be able to use the information provided by parents to sign up to educational platforms. and finally, collecting information AT ALL should not be a default, It should be an opt IN thing. This law is combining verification with good laws, they should be split up. Nobody wants stupid verification, they want the companies to stop stealing information at the expense of both children and adults for more profit.

If you were wondering why I have not mentioned my name, nor do I have it in my email: that is because I grew up being taught you should never put your name, address, phone, birthday and especially not a drivers license on the internet. once it's on there it will never leave. no matter what you do. That was the best way to stay safe 10 years ago, and it still is now. Stop trying to prevent it.

