

Choosing a Web App

Deciding which web apps to use is a hot-button topic in education today. Educators are responsible for both supporting the effective use of student information and securing that information in order to protect student privacy. That's a daunting task in a "buyer beware" world where web app privacy policies and Terms & Conditions or Terms of Use are as lengthy and convoluted as they come. Yes, apps can provide you with entertainment, information or useful services....but if you ignore the terms & conditions--or can't understand them-- they can also invade your privacy.

What can apps do without your knowledge?

- Collect, use, share and save your personal information for other purposes or outsource to a 3rd party.
- Use, share or sell your personal information for behavioural targeted advertising.
- Keep your personal information after you are no longer using the app.
- Access your contact list, device activity, browsing history and bookmarks.
- Access your location.



Resources

Video on Educational Web Apps – see it [here](#)

Online Educational Services: What Educators Need to Know – read it [here](#)

Data Tool Checklist – try it [here](#)

Challenge:

Investigate the privacy policies and Terms & Conditions of the apps you use. Are you comfortable with the information you are sharing?

Protect Yourself

•••

1. Stick to the App Store.
2. Limit what your apps can access when you install them by not agreeing to all their terms. If an app is too nosy, find a different one.
3. Install a security app. There are plenty of anti-virus and anti-malware apps available for every type of mobile device. Firewall apps are also handy to make sure no apps are sending or receiving information you're not aware of.
4. Set up Find My Phone and Remote Wipe if your phone supports it.
5. Know the difference between internal Board apps and external apps that ask you to log in with your board credentials
6. Read the privacy policy and Terms and Conditions for an app before downloading it