

It is a common theme in public discourse that the right to privacy is threatened in many societies because of the activities of, for example, secret services, search engines, or social networks. In order to know whether these worries are justified we need a better understanding of the content of the right to privacy. That is, what do we have a right to if we have a right to privacy? This is the main question I will discuss in my talk. I will begin with a presentation and critical discussion of the standard account of the right to privacy according to which the right to privacy is the right to control certain information about us. I will show that this view is attractive and that it can be defended against the most prominent objections. I will argue, however, that this view has other problems that cannot easily be solved. I will then present a new version of the view that the right to privacy is the right that others are ignorant of certain information about us. I will show that this account has important and often overlooked similarities with the control account, that it better deals with important cases, and that it can be defended against important objections.