Ryan's Digital Footprint

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How might your digital footprint affect your future opportunities? Give at least 2 examples.

We are living in a digital age. Your digital footprint can affect your future opportunities in a variety of ways. Yet some people still fail to realize how much their digital footprint matters and it is for the most part, permanent. To begin with, my digital footprint is very minimal, so my future opportunities would as of now not be affected. Searching my name on the internet gave no results of me, or of anything that identifies me such as no personal information, photos, videos, etc... The only other way I can think that my footprint could truly affect me is in a good way because it shows you how responsible you are online. A typical way of my digital footprint impacting my future is when your applying for college, university, and/or an institute. They can merely look at your traces and involvement in the online world and see if you have the right qualifications. For instance, they could look at images you could have posted, and they can look at your history, records, or anything you've put online that could have been inappropriate violent etc... Especially Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, etc... Possessing a social media account can potentially decrease the chance of you getting into the college/university you want to get into depending on what you post/share and what you upload that's easily visible to the public eye which could jeopardize your chances of getting in. As said earlier, they make sure there's nothing horrible about you there. Even the tiniest negative thing can be seen as a reason to not accept you. If your digital footprint is clean, you won't have to worry about this, and in fact, it might benefit you. The same goes for a career my second example. You could be at a job interview, and the employer/interviewer could search up your name and find something that may be inappropriate, or they might find something that makes you seem irresponsible or untrustworthy. Something unappealing that may not have left a good impression, which good significantly backtrack. Many employers will do some online digging to make sure there aren't any red flags before scheduling interviews, and that can be problematic for applicants who don't clean away any digital debris floating around the internet. People are going to use the information they find about you online in order to make decisions and judgments about you, possibly without ever having met you. It's also vital to know if you are doing something illegal and you post about it online, you can get in trouble by authorities, and it will show up on your permanent record, which could have an impact on everyday life. Even joining a sports team or a club is another example because the coach/leader is going to no doubt find information about you, and therefore leaving negative traces on the media will result in a harsh outcome. Employers in a way, are stalkers because in this age of information sharing, whatever you put into the internet can be found within minutes.

Describe at least three strategies that you can use to keep your digital footprint appropriate and safe.

There are a lot of things you can do to keep your digital footprint appropriate safe. First of all, keeping all of your social media accounts private, this prevents people from the public eye to see the things you may post and share on these databases. Keeping as much information as possible private on the internet is a good idea, so reviewing and changing settings is a great idea. All of my accounts are set up to make sure my details and information are private as can be. If your keen on privacy, not having a social media account would probably be a good idea if you're going to try to ace your application for college/university or apply for a job somewhere someplace since it will decrease your chance of having something horrible forever stuck to your digital footprint. Also, think before sharing it shouldn't be new advice but thinking carefully before sending or posting is one of the most important parts of looking after your digital footprint. One way to keep my digital footprint positive and safe is to always think before you post something on a digital platform. You should always question yourself, is this really worth it, and who will see this, etc.… Consider that anyone online can see this post, never post something without any thought because that one tiny negative post could cost you something in the near future. Here are some other things you can do. Your safety is the main priority while online. You should never tell another person your password or anything to personal. You can take procedures like using privacy settings, not posting intimate details of your life online, using a password manager, googling yourself online to see what content comes up every now and then because there is a chance you can have an individual using your photo and/or identity for anything suspicious, understand that what you post online is there forever. Don't post discriminatory material because it's an immediate sign of racism which can backfire. Just ask others, sometimes, if you don't know what to do in a situation, get a hands-on opinion rather than regretting something later. Also ask if your parents, teachers, professors, or whomever, saw what was put out, would they react positively?

What information did you learn that you would pass on to other students? How would you go about telling them?

Learning about my digital footprint learned that it is good to post on your edublog and use it to your advantage. The information I would pass up to other students would be that you don't want to post something that you will regret later on, always stay true to yourself. I would tell other students to be aware of everything that they do online. At the moment it may seem fine, but in the future, it may really affect the outcome of your

job, school, sports team etc. I would tell my peers that you should be mindful with everything you do on the internet and social media. Make sure you are posting things that would affect your digital footprint in a positive way. Your actions online can have bad consequences, so it makes things a lot easier by just being responsible and smart. I would let them know that it isn't very hard to find information about them whether it may be through google, social media, and much more. It can affect your reputation too and sometimes when people misbehave online a website and/or the police may use and IP address to identify the computer that has sent the information. In conclusion, make sure whatever you do on the media is kind, genuine, and helpful.

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