A CITIZEN’S PRIVACY CHECKLIST

1. THINK TWICE BEFORE SHARING
   Before you post, ask yourself, “Can it be used against me?” Sometimes what you share isn’t worth the risk.

2. RESPECT OTHERS’ PRIVACY
   Ask before posting photographs or recordings—and don’t hesitate to ask others not to post images or footage of you. Warn others of smart devices in your home.

3. SAY “NO”
   If a website asks for data, you don’t have to say “yes.” Don’t be deceived by web designs that hide the “no” option. Always opt out of data collection whenever possible.

4. CHOOSE DEVICES AND SERVICES THAT MAXIMIZE PRIVACY
   Don’t buy devices from companies that earn their money through exploiting personal data. Resist using virtual assistants. Use an encrypted messaging app, one that does not sell your data. Use an email service that prioritizes privacy. Use search engines and web browsers that do not collect your data.

5. USE PRIVACY EXTENSIONS AND TOOLS
   They are easy to install and can block trackers and increase encryption protection.

6. CHANGE YOUR SETTINGS YEARLY
   Don’t assume preset settings are privacy-friendly. Check your browser settings and block cookies—especially cross-site tracking cookies.

7. DON’T CYBER-HOARD
   Delete data routinely. You do not need to keep all the data you create.

8. CHOOSE STRONG PASSWORDS
   Avoid common passwords and consider a trustworthy password manager.

9. USE OBFUSCATION
   When companies ask for more information than they need, you are allowed to give incorrect information to protect your privacy.

10. MINIMIZE DIGITAL INTERACTIONS
    Avoid the “internet of things.” Don’t do DNA tests for fun. Read print books and newspapers.

AUTHOR CARISSA VÉLIZ’S CHECKLIST FOR PROTECTING YOUR PRIVACY.

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