

## Personally Identifiable Information PII

Personally Identifiable Information - Information which could be used online to alter or steal credit information.

Wikipedia defines Personally Identifiable Information (PII) as

"information that can be used to uniquely identify, contact, or locate a single person or can be used with other sources to uniquely identify a single individual."

Wikipedia also indicates that

"PII can also be exploited by criminals to stalk or steal the identity of a person, or to plan a person's murder or robbery, among other crimes. As a response to these threats, many web site privacy policies specifically address the collection of PII."

Wikipedia identifies the following as typical types of PII:

"The following are often used for the express purpose of distinguishing individual identity, and thus are clearly PII under the definition used by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (described in detail below):"

- Full name (if not common)
- National identification number
- IP address (in some cases)
- Vehicle registration plate number
- Driver's license number
- Face, fingerprints, or handwriting
- Credit card numbers
- Digital identity
- Birthday
- Birthplace
- Genetic information

"The following are less often used to distinguish individual identity, because they are traits shared by many people. However, they are potentially PII, because they may be combined with other personal information to identify an individual."

- First or last name, if common
- Country, state, or city of residence
- Age, especially if non-specific
- Gender or race
- Name of the school they attend or workplace
- Grades, salary, or job position
- Criminal record

To reduce the possibility that this genealogy information might contain PII, I am not publishing birthdates, birthplaces, or places of residence for persons born after 1900 for whom I do not have death information.

Also, to reduce the possibility that the online sources I use might be used to obtain PII, I am not listing some those sources and trying to keep my use of them private.

Ref:

Rootsweb - <http://helpdesk.rootsweb.com/FAQ/wcsubmit8.html> [2010]

Wikipedia - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Personally\\_identifiable\\_info](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Personally_identifiable_info) [2010]