



Background Information

Jeff Brisbois | OLTD 506

What is Schoolology?

Schoolology is a cloud-based learning management software and configurable social network for educational purposes. Users have the ability to view, create, share content, and collaborate with their teachers and classmates. Schoolology is a fenced social media tool in which the content users create is only visible to their teachers and classmates.

Is Schoolology trustworthy?

Schoolology.com is a Member of the PRIVO-Cert™ Safe Harbor Certification Program. As a participating member in the Program, Schoolology.com adheres to the strict information collection, use and disclosure requirements set forth by the Program. PRIVO is an independent, third-party organization committed to safeguarding children's personal information collected online. PRIVO aims to help parents and their children exercise control over personal information while exploring the Internet. The PRIVO certification seal posted on this page indicates that Schoolology.com has established COPPA compliant privacy practices and has agreed to submit to PRIVO's oversight and consumer dispute resolution process.

Why am I using Schoolology?

The following are activities that students are able to do using Schoolology:

View and download assignment instructions, upload assignments for grading, access their grades and assignment feedback, participate in discussion forms with their classmates, send message to the instructor, watch screencasts and videos, follow links to external content take online quizzes, view assignment due dates and a course calendar, access the course on desktop and mobile devices.

What is personal information?

Personal information is any information, data, or content could be used to identify you. A student's personal information could include: name, date of birth, address, telephone number, email address, educational information, and anything that identifies an individual, including photographs. If any information, data or content could be used to identify you it is then qualified as personal information (Hengstler, 2013). This information can have a potentially permanent affect on your digital footprint, or may be accessed by third parties in identity theft.

What personal information data does Schoolology collect?

Schoolology requires students to actively provide the following personal information to create an account: first name, last name, email or username, and birthday. Optionally, students may enter a bio, gender, birthday, phone number, and website.

In addition to the active collection of data described above, Schoology will also automatically passively collect the following data and store it in their log files: internet protocol (IP) addresses, browser type, internet service provider (ISP), referring/exit pages, operating system, date/time stamp, and/or clickstream data. Schoology will also use tracking technologies from third party service providers such as Zendesk, Zopim Chat, Pendo, Google Analytics, Marketo, AddThis, and Disqus to gather information regarding the date and time of your visit and the information you interacted with. They may link this automatically-collected data to personally identifiable information.

For further details, please refer to Schoology's Privacy Statement which can be found at: <https://www.schoology.com/privacy>

This Privacy Statement will be reviewed & discussed in class.

Why is a consent form necessary?

Schoology's servers that will contain students' personally identifiable information are located outside of Canada. Under BC's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA), public educators are required to obtain explicit consent when students' personal identifiable information will be stored external to Canada or accessed external to Canada.

"Shortly after the 9/11 attacks on the US in 2001, the American government enacted the United States Patriot Act that allowed the United States government to search private and public data housed on servers on United States soil. At the time, The British Columbia Medical Services Plan was hosting our provincial medical records in the United States. Unions in British Columbia expressed concern over the ability of the American government to search through British Columbian's personal medical records and histories. Ultimately, the rule is: if you transfer or authorize the transfer of your personal information outside of Canada, that data is subject to the laws and practices of the country where it sits – be it United States, China, or India. (Remember that minors, under the legal care of an adult, cannot authorize such a transfer.) Not all locations have similar notions about your right to privacy. Since cloud computing is a relatively new technology, the laws and best practices governing it are still changing and there is a need to stay current." (Hengstler, 2013)

What risks could arise with Schoology?

The major risk associated with Schoology is that data will not be stored in Canada. Some data may be stored in the United States of America which enacts the trans-border data act. There is also the risk of the student posting something and the 'digital footprint' it leaves. We need to make sure the students are aware that once something is posted, it is online for good and they should be aware of what they are posting online. The personal information requirements (anything that can be used to identify you and where to find out) for creating an account will be limited to only what is necessary for the registration process. If you are concerned about someone figuring out your child's name, you are able to sign up with your name instead. I want to remind you as well that I have suggested that you have your child sign up with their parent's

email address so that if any notices come, you will be able to see them and have access to them (Quist, 2014).

Schoology is not 100% risk free but I have been doing everything I can to put rules, guidelines and options in place to keep your child as safe as I possibly can.

What if I don't consent?

You have the right as a parent/guardian to withhold consent to your child using Schoology. Alternate methods to access course material and participate in all class activities will be provided to students, if parents/guardians choose to withhold consent and that selection of an alternate activity will not affect a student's grade.

Where can you find more information about Schoology and FIPPA?

<https://www.schoology.com/about>

<https://www.schoology.com/privacy>

http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/96165_00

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this, please contact me.

Jeff Brisbois

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References

Hengstler, J. (2013). A K-12 primer for British Columbia teachers posting students' work online. Retrieved from

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/z9zp3q2ynkvsscs/Primer%20on%20Posting%20Minor%20Students%20Final%20%281%29.pdf>

Quist, B. (2014). The Privacy Compass for Web 2.0 Tools: Helping Teachers Navigate Challenging Terrain. Retrieved from <http://www.privacycompass.ca/>

Schoology Privacy Policy (2019). Retrieved from <https://www.schoology.com/privacy>



Draft Informed Consent Form

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Technology for use

Schoology cloud-based learning management software and configurable social network for educational purposes. URL: <http://www.schoology.com>.

Educational rationale

The following are activities that students are able to do using Schoology: View and download assignment instructions, upload assignments for grading, access their grades and assignment feedback, participate in discussion forms with their classmates, send message to the instructor, watch screencasts and videos, follow links to external content take online quizzes, view assignment due dates and a course calendar, access the course on desktop and mobile devices.

Personal information required for use

Schoology requires students to actively provide the following personal information to create an account: first name, last name, email or username, and birthday. Optionally, students may enter a bio, gender, birthday, phone number, and website.

In addition to the active collection of data described above, Schoology will also automatically passively collect the following data and store it in their log files: internet protocol (IP) addresses, browser type, internet service provider (ISP), referring/exit pages, operating system, date/time stamp, and/or clickstream data. Schoology will also use tracking technologies from third party service providers such as Zendesk, Zopim Chat, Pendo, Google Analytics, Marketo, AddThis, and Disqus to gather information regarding the date and time of your visit and the information you interacted with. They may link this automatically-collected data to personally identifiable information.

Duration of use

Feb. 1, 2019 to June 30, 2019.

Account deletion

Teacher will provide a handout with instructions and demonstrate how to delete an account.

Behaviour expectations

Students are expected to behave in accordance to the school's Student Code of Conduct as outlined in the school's Student Handbook. Please refer to that document for more information.

Reporting

Any issues with the use of the tool, negative experiences, breach of privacy, etc. will be reported to the teacher immediately.

Potential risks

The major risk associated with Schoology is that data will not be stored in Canada. Some data may be stored in the United States of America which enacts the trans-border data act. There is also the risk of the student posting something and the 'digital footprint' it leaves. We need to make sure the students are aware that once something is posted, it is online for good and they should be aware of what they are posting online.

While the teacher will take every reasonable effort to assure the safety of your child, no online activity or tool can be deemed 100% safe.

If consent is withheld

You have the right as a parent/guardian to withhold consent to your child using Schoology. Alternate methods to access course material and participate in all class activities will be provided to students, if parents/guardians choose to withhold consent and that selection of an alternate activity will not affect a student's grade.

Consent to use Schoology

I have read the attached Schoology Background Information, and am aware this activity will involve the use of the following personal information: first name, last name, email or username, and birthday which will be stored and accessible external to Canada.

I have read the attached Schoology Background Information detailing the potential risks and steps the teacher will take to mitigate these risks.

By our signatures below we agree to the use of Schoology for the purposes described.

Student Name

Parent Name

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Date

Date