A review of the past month’s news stories related to Personally Identifiable Information (Pii) and other Privacy matters.
“Google is buying time to regroup,” Brave said, “to consolidate its control over web tracking.” If you’re a Chrome user, this nasty new surprise is a genuine reason to quit.

“Chrome announced its intent to remove support for third-party cookies” by early 2022, the company assured us in March.

Source: https://www.forbes.com/sites/zakdoffman/2021/07/03/stop-using-google-chrome-on-your-iphone-android-mac-and-pc-after-privacy-backlash/?sh=598ae88e467d
With GDPR as dead people “do not have any GDPR rights”

Under Article 15 of GDPR, people have a right to submit **Subject Access Requests** (SARs) if they wish to be given a copy of any of their personal information which is being **processed by controllers**.

New Delhi, India

WhatsApp on Friday accepted that "the government is the administrator" in its case and informed the Delhi High Court that it will put its privacy policy update "on hold" until the Data Protection Bill came into force.

Source: https://www.prokerala.com/news/articles/a1176952.html
China is in denial mode over reports that its gene company selling prenatal tests around the world developed them in collaboration with the country's military and is using them to collect genetic data from millions of women for sweeping research on the traits of populations.

Facebook’s WhatsApp faces a complaint from European Union consumer groups who say the chat service has been unfairly pressuring users to accept a new privacy update in what it calls a breach of the bloc’s regulations.
According to Insider, Facebook has been accused of having employees who access user data to track and harass women, and I don’t know about you, but that sure as hell sounds like stalking and abuse of power to me.

Between 2014 and August 2015, the company fired 52 employees for using their access to confidential data for their own personal means.

Amazon is to offer *end-to-end encryption for videos captured by the Ring doorbell worldwide*, following a successful trial in the US.

It means that only the smartphone on which the video is received will be able to view the files.

Ring says police in the UK only have access to data that Ring owners choose to share - but adds that globally, "applicable laws" may limit the availability of end-to-end encryption "in some areas". It declined to name them.
The Federal Communications Commission in July granted Amazon the rights to use a radar sensor to improve sleep tracking on its smart devices. But a new column in the The Los Angeles Times explores the implications of this decision and what it means for user privacy.
The High Court of Madras (India) noted that an accused person who is acquitted from all the charges is entitled to have their name redacted from all court orders in relation to the offences they were accused of in order to uphold their fundamental right to privacy.

The California Privacy Rights Act (CPRA) which goes live January 1, 2023 introduces data retention and deletion requirements very similar to those that we see in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Program suggestions:
1. Update (or create) a data inventory.
2. Document your compliance obligations.
3. Review and revise the records retention schedule.
4. Publish an information lifecycle management (ILM) policy.
5. Define the data disposition process.
When a religious publication used smartphone app data to deduce the sexual orientation of a high-ranking Roman Catholic official, it exposed a problem that goes far beyond a debate over church doctrine and priestly celibacy.

Privacy advocates have been warning for years that location and personal data collected by advertisers and amassed and sold by brokers can be used to identify individuals, isn’t secured as well as it should be and is not regulated by laws that require the clear consent of the person being tracked.
The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) has warned that hackers may have stolen personal information for possibly tens of thousands of residents seeking or receiving unemployment benefits.

DEO said information contained in targets accounts “may have been accessed,” including possibly social security numbers, driver’s license number, bank account numbers, contact information and more.
France's personal data protection agency on Wednesday fined US firm Monsanto for illegally compiling files of **public figures**, **journalists** and **activists** with the aim of swaying opinion towards support for its controversial pesticides.

The CNIL agency fined **Monsanto** 400,000 euros ($473,000) in the case brought by seven plaintiffs.

Zoom Video Communications Inc. has agreed to pay $85 million and improve its security practices as part of a preliminary settlement to a two-pronged lawsuit filed against it over privacy violations and so-called “Zoombombing.”
Facebook is apparently researching ways that they might be able to analyze your messages, even if it was encrypted.

Facebook is not trying to break their own encryption, but rather to make sense of already-encrypted data and to extract information from it that could in turn be used to help bolster targeted advertising. This is also known as “homomorphic encryption” which is a study of reading information from encrypted data while preserving privacy.

Source: https://www.ubergizmo.com/2021/08/facebook-analyze-encrypted-whatsapp-messages/amp/
Oh, Facebook changed its privacy settings again

Devin Coldewey
@techcrunch / 4:33 pm PDT • August 4, 2021

Facebook in 2018

“We’ve redesigned our entire settings menu on mobile devices from top to bottom to make things easier to find. Instead of having settings spread across nearly 20 different screens, they’re now accessible from a single place,”

Facebook in 2021

“Settings are now grouped into six broad categories, each containing several related settings: Account, Preferences, Audience and Visibility, Permissions, Your Information, and Community Standards and Legal Policies ...
Apple announced that it would be enacting a new protocol: automatically scanning iPhones and iPads to check user photos for child sexual assault material (CSAM). The company is doing this to limit the spread of CSAM, but also adding other features ‘to protect children from predators who use communication tools to recruit and exploit them.’
The End