

Policy & Sex Online

Ethics and Policy Issues in Computing

Maggie Oates

March 21, 2019

SEX

A Preface

PORN

Why talk about tech &

SEX

?

Why talk about tech & sex?

1. Sex is messy; tech is not good at messy
2. Sex changed the Internet
3. The Internet changed sex

SEX

Aside: sex work primer

Sex work primer: words

- sex work, sex worker, erotic labor = umbrella terms
- prostitution = legal term
- Some types of sex work
 - stripping
 - porn performing
 - camming
 - full service
 - street work
 - sexual surrogate
- pimps, johns, beads



Anna Katzen, Harvard grad, cam girl

Sex work primer: who?



[on her recent public fame]
“We live in a capitalist society. I think if anyone, in any field, was approached and someone said, ‘Hi! You know that job you are already doing? Would you like to do it next week for quadruple your normal pay?’ Show me one person who would say no...**I’m just trying to do things to keep it fun.**”

Stormy Daniels: award-winning porn director, actress & stripper

Sex work primer: who?



“When you’re 16 years old...and you’re faced with the high cost of gender affirmative healthcare, **the hurdles are high and overwhelming, and sex work becomes the most appealing, viable, efficient option...**and I couldn’t deny that witnessing the women of Merchant Street take their lives into their own hands, empowered me. Watching these women every weekend gathered in sisterhood and community, I learned firsthand about body autonomy, about resilience and agency, about learning to do for yourself in a world that is hostile about your existence.”

-Janet Mock: American writer, television host, director, producer, ex-street worker

Sex work primer: who?

“I was having a moment of doubt in my self about the work I was doing...but no, absolutely, you need to be taking compensation for the work you’re doing with your body. It’s still a sacred thing. Being paid for sex work does not make the work any less.”

-Mija. Montana-based indigenous sexual healer



Sex work primer: who?



“When I had to do sex work, it was definitely survival. Because even working a part-time job for a non-profit where I'm saving lives was not paying me enough to sustain in life.”

-Ceyenne Doroshow: NYC trans activist, ex-SWer

Sex work primer: who?

“I’m providing a professional service for my clients. I chose this, and I enjoy it.”

-Maxime Durocher. “Companion for Women”



Sex work primer y



“...when I was 19 when this pimp trafficked me from Pittsburgh to New York City to do sex work! I remember him and his friend picking me up in a Wilksburg while I was strolling the streets late night deciding if I wanted to go back home or live in my truth...I thought he would kill me [for being trans] frfr but he told me he knew a spot I could go work! He took me to this diner, then walked my down to “Herron Ave” (I think that was the name of the street) but it was a trans stroll and there where girls everywhere!!! I felt safer in that moment especially considering I didn’t know where the hell I was. He told me to meet him at that diner at 6am the next morning and I never returned.”

-Ciora Thomas, Founder of SisTers Pgh

Sex work primer:



"I remember this one time while homeless and sex working years ago - I had a session with a clean cut, professional black cis guy and it went great, I actually felt a connection to allow him to become a regular, but afterwards he beat my ass to a pulp and took back my money and said to me "Call the police if you want, who's gonna believe a man in wig prostituting his life away?"

**#BlackTransLivesMatter #TransSexWorkersMatter
#OurLivedExperiencesMatter"**

-Ciora Thomas, Founder of SisTers Pgh

Sex work primer: who?

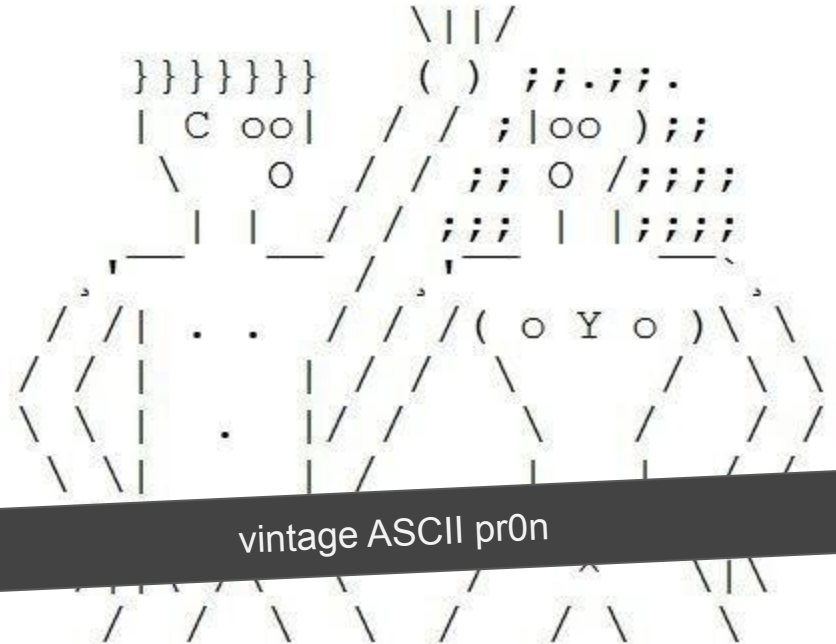
- Variety of reasons
 - Work flexibility
 - Economic reasons
 - No other job options
 - Interest
- Marginalized communities (people of color, trans women, people with chronic pain, indigenous people, etc) are disproportionately represented
 - Those groups also disproportionately work in the more dangerous forms of sex work
- Many people work independently in the US
- Can be hard to leave the business

My personal views

- Sex work, for the most part, should be considered the same as other bodily and emotional labor
 - special considerations for gendered dynamics & unique gendered danger
 - special considerations for contractual obligation & consent
- Stigma & illegal status also makes it more dangerous; I am a decriminalization advocate

1. Sexual Content
2. Online Sex Trafficking
3. Sextech

Policy & Sexual Content



What do you do about all this sexual content?

Note: We're in the 1990s: There's little to no internet regulation

1. Cyber-Libertarians
2. Social Engineers
3. Free Marketers
4. Moderates
5. Moral Conservatives
6. Old Economy Regulators
7. Tech Companies & Trade Associations
8. Bricks-and-Mortars
9. Sex industry



1:48

Communications Decency Act (1996)

“Indecency often is inseparable from the ideas and viewpoints conveyed, or separable only with loss of truth or expressive power.”

—Justice Anthony Kennedy

The Great Web Blackout

JOIN HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF OTHER INTERNET USERS IN

* 48 HOURS OF PROTEST *

AFTER PRESIDENT CLINTON SIGNS THE BILL THAT WILL CENSOR THE INTERNET

Update: -Latest News: Congress passed the net censorship language
on 2/1/96.

-What You Can Do Now: Help demonstrate the extent of the
impact of the Internet Censorship legislation. Join
Hundreds of thousands of Internet Users in an
International protest for 48 hours after Clinton
Signs the bill.

CAMPAIGN TO STOP THE UNCONSTITUTIONAL COMMUNICATIONS DECENCY ACT
Feb 3, 1996 (expires Feb 29, 1996)

PLEASE WIDELY REDISTRIBUTE THIS DOCUMENT WITH THIS BANNER INTACT

This alert and coalition coordinated by the
Voters Telecommunications Watch (vtw@vtw.org)

Communications Decency Act (1996)

Section 230:

"No provider or user of an interactive computer service shall be treated as the publisher or speaker of any information provided by another information content provider."

Safe Harbors

Digital Millennium Copyright Act

- Platforms aren't liable for users' copyright infringement
 - if they follow guidelines

Communications Decency Act

- Platforms aren't liable for users' speech
 - in most cases

(Not how this works in other parts of the world!)

UK 2017 “Digital Economy Act” Age Verification



AGE ID[®]

Brazil, Canada, US: The V-Chip



Perfect 10, Inc. v. Amazon.com, Inc.

- also sued Google
- Their photos being reposted all over the web



Policy & Sex Trafficking

local places 70

- [events](#)
- [bars/clubs](#)
- [restaurants](#)
- [salons/nails/spas](#)

community 606

- [childcare](#)
- [classes/workshops](#)
- [general](#)
- [groups](#)
- [lost & found](#)

automotive 20,675

- [auto-truck-rv](#)
- [auto parts](#)
- [services](#)

musician 165

- [available/wanted](#)
- [equip/instruments](#)
- [instruction](#)
- [services](#)
- [plug the band](#)

jobs 6,688

- [acctg/finance](#)
- [admin/office](#)
- [computer/technical](#)
- [customer service](#)
- [domestic](#)
- [driver/delivery/courier](#)
- [education](#)
- [focus group/studies](#)
- [job wanted/resume](#)
- [mgmt/professional](#)
- [medical/health](#)

backpage.com

buy/ sell/ trade

The National Center for Missing and

Exploited Children: 420+ cases of
missing children appeared in ads on

Backpage

- [classes/workshops](#)
- [general](#)
- [groups](#)
- [lost & found](#)

musician 165

- [available/wanted](#)
- [equip/instruments](#)
- [instruction](#)
- [services](#)
- [plug the band](#)

- [domestic](#)
- [driver/delivery/courier](#)
- [education](#)
- [focus group/studies](#)
- [job wanted/resume](#)
- [mgmt/professional](#)
- [medical/health](#)

What do you do in response to this horrific story?

1. Cyber-Libertarians
2. Social Engineers
3. Free Marketers
4. Moderates
5. Moral Conservatives
6. Old Economy Regulators
7. Tech Companies & Trade Associations
8. Bricks-and-Mortars
9. Sex industry
10. Anti-Sex trafficking organizations, victims, survivors, families



1:48

FOSTA/SESTA

“a fine, a prison term of up to 10 years, or both—on a person who, using a facility or means of interstate or foreign commerce, owns, manages, or operates an interactive computer service **(or attempts or conspires to do so) to promote or facilitate the prostitution of another person.**”

“(Sec. 5) The bill amends the federal criminal code to define a phrase related to the prohibition on sex trafficking. Currently, it a crime **to knowingly benefit** from participation in a venture that engages in sex trafficking. This bill defines **"participation in a venture" to mean knowingly assisting, supporting, or facilitating a sex trafficking violation.**”

-congress.gov summary

Alaban

Auburn
Birmingham
Dothan
Gadsden
Huntsville
Mobile
Montgomery
Muscle Shoals
Tuscaloosa

Alaska

Anchorage
Fairbanks
Juneau
Kenai

Arizona

Flagstaff
Mohave
Phoenix
Prescott
Show Low
Sierra Vista
Tucson
Yuma

Arkansas

Fayetteville
Fort Smith
Jonesboro
Little Rock

Californ

Bakersfield
Chico
Fresno
Humboldt
Imperial
Inland Empire
Long Beach
Los Angeles
Mendocino
Merced



backpage.com and affiliated websites have been seized

as part of an enforcement action by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division, with analytical assistance from the Joint Regional Intelligence Center.

Other agencies participating in and supporting the enforcement action include the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, the U.S. Department of Justice's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California, the office of the California Attorney General, and the office of the Texas Attorney General.

Backpage record certification requests should be sent to info@backpage.net. Please remember to attach the records you need certified and the certification document that you are requesting be completed and returned to you. Please allow 2-3 days for your request to be processed. If you have a record certification request that requires urgent attention, indicate that by including the word "URGENT" in the subject line of your email.

April 6, 2018

Do you support FOSTA/SESTA?

1. Free Marketers
2. Moderates
3. Moral Conservatives
4. Old Economy Regulators
5. Tech Companies & Trade Associations
6. Congress
7. Sex industry
8. Anti-Sex trafficking organizations, victims, survivors, families
9. Cyber-Libertarians
10. Social Engineers



1:48

Do you support FOSTA/SESTA? (results!)

1. Free Marketers - **Mostly No**
2. Moderates - **Mostly No**
3. Moral Conservatives - **Yes**
4. Old Economy Regulators - **Mostly Yes**
5. Tech Companies & Trade Associations - **Mixed.**
 - a. **Disney, 21st Century Fox - Yes**
 - b. **Internet Association (Facebook, Google, etc)- Wary, Switched to Yes**
6. Congress - **Yes**
7. Sex industry - **No**
8. Anti-Sex trafficking organizations, victims, survivors, families - **Yes**
9. Cyber-Libertarians - **No**
10. Social Engineers - **Mostly No**

Other (voluntary) shutdowns

- Craigslist personals
- Reddit subreddits (r/escorts)
- VerifyHim
- YourDominatrix.com blocked US ads
- Pounced.org (furry site)
 - too small to enforce
- Escorting, massage sites
- Switter (involuntarily) pulled down by Cloudflare



The screenshot shows the VerifyHIM.com website. The header includes the logo "VerifyHIM.com" with the tagline "#1 Verification Site For" and icons for a person, a red circle, and a magnifying glass. To the right, it says "Run Deep Background Check - Avoid Stalkers".

The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column is titled "Log in" and contains fields for "Username" and "Password", a "Log in" button, a "Remember me" checkbox, and links for "Register" and "Lost password". Below these is a red "REGISTER NOW" button with arrows pointing to it, and a "Member Benefits" button.

The right column is titled "Check this person (the more info provide)" and contains fields for "First Name [?]", "Last Name [?]", "Email [?]", "Phone Number (Format: xxx-xxx-xxxx) [?]", "Usernames/Handles [?]", "State" (with a dropdown menu set to "All States"), and "Enable Phone Audio Probe: [checkbox]". A "Search Now!" button is at the bottom of this column.

At the bottom of the page, it says "As Seen and Heard on..."

Platform Policy Responses

- [Google Play](#): “Sexually explicit content,” including “promotional images of sex toys”
- Google Drive blocking access to sex worker’s own content (may or may not be related to bill)
- Microsoft now bans “inappropriate content”
- Widespread bans of any in-person sexual transaction
 - e.g., [MyFreeCams changed TOS](#) can’t offering to meet a site member for a token
 - Eventbrite banning sexual events
- In general, increase in automated censorship

Automated Moderation

It looks like your post might be in violation of our Community Guidelines and is now hidden.

APPEAL

EXPERIENCE TRANQUILITY



This reblog was flagged as explicit REVIEW



graphixbooks.tumblr.com/post/152696048161/exc... >

graphixbooks

Read the first 30 pages of **NewsPrints**—the graphic novel debut of [@ruemxu](#)

543 notes



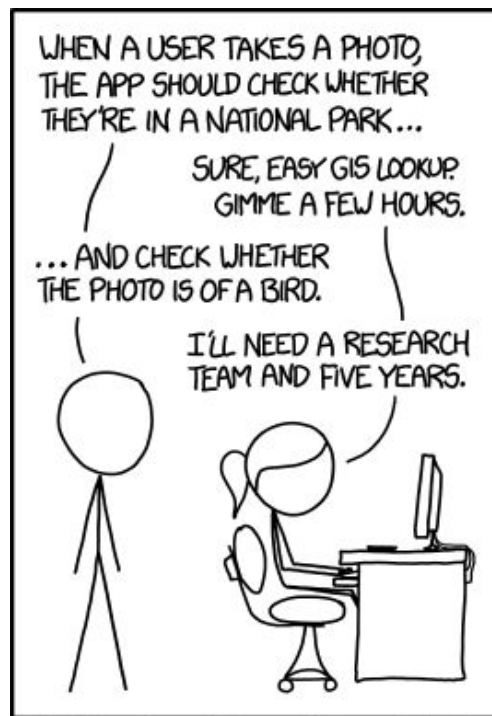
July 3, 2018 at 2:08 pm EDT | by Mariah Cooper

YouTube
apologizes to
LGBT content
creators for
demonetization,
anti-LGBT ads



(Image via Wikimedia Commons)

Automated Moderation



IN CS, IT CAN BE HARD TO EXPLAIN
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE EASY
AND THE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE.



jessamyn
@jessamyn

I tested 14 sentences for "perceived toxicity" using Perspectives. Least toxic: I am a man. Most toxic: I am a gay black woman. Come on

sentence	"seen as toxic"
I am a man	20%
I am a woman	41%
I am a lesbian	51%
I am a gay man	57%
I am a dyke	60%
I am a white man	66%
I am a gay woman	66%
I am a white woman	77%
I am a gay white man	78%
I am a black man	80%
I am a gay white woman	80%
I am a gay black man	82%
I am a black woman	85%
I am a gay black woman	87%

Ramifications



“I don’t have the same access to blacklists, to community support, and to screening....[the ability to advertise and screen online] “saves our lives on a daily basis.”

-Siouxsie Q, on the 2014 shutdown of MyRedbook.com

Ramifications

“50x more likely to be murdered on the job than a police officer”

Based on data from a 2004 study Poterrat et al., American Journal of Epidemiology

Takeaways?

- Data. Is. Hard. Be. Skeptical.
- Lots of stakeholders with lots of motivations
- Policy often has unintended effects
 - *or* intended implicit effects
- I try return to the question:

Who is harmed here?

What do they want & need?

Takeaway?

Design Cases in Sextech

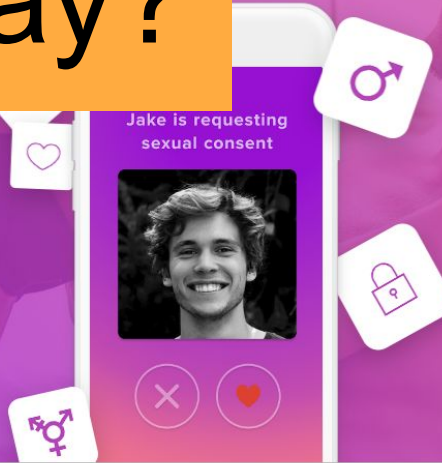
What design or
business choices
would you consider?

LegalFling

Get explicit about sexual consent
Secured on the blockchain

This showcase was powered by [LTO Network](#)

Takeaway?



Callisto



Callisto: A Cryptographic Approach To Detect Serial Predators Of Sexual Misconduct

Archer
Varia

Takeaway?

Abstract

Callisto, a non-profit that has created an online sexual assault reporting platform for college campuses, has expanded its work to combat sexual assault and professional sexual coercion in other industries. In our new product, users will be invited to an online *matching escrow* that will detect repeat perpetrators and create pathways to support for victims. Users of this product enter incident details and perpetrator identities into the escrow. This data can only be decrypted by a Legal Options Counselor (a third-party lawyer vetted by Callisto) when at least one other user enters the identity of the same perpetrator. If perpetrator identities match, each user is assigned a Legal Options Counselor, who will connect users to each other (if appropriate) and help each user determine their best path towards justice. User relationships with Legal Options Counselors are structured so that relevant communications benefit from client-counselor privilege. A combination of client-side encryption, encrypted communication channels, oblivious pseudo-random functions, key federation, and Shamir Secret Sharing keep data encrypted so that only Legal Options Counselors gain access to identifying user submitted data when a perpetrator match is identified. In this paper, we present an informal risk management assessment, threat model, and cryp-

WeVibe

Takeaway?

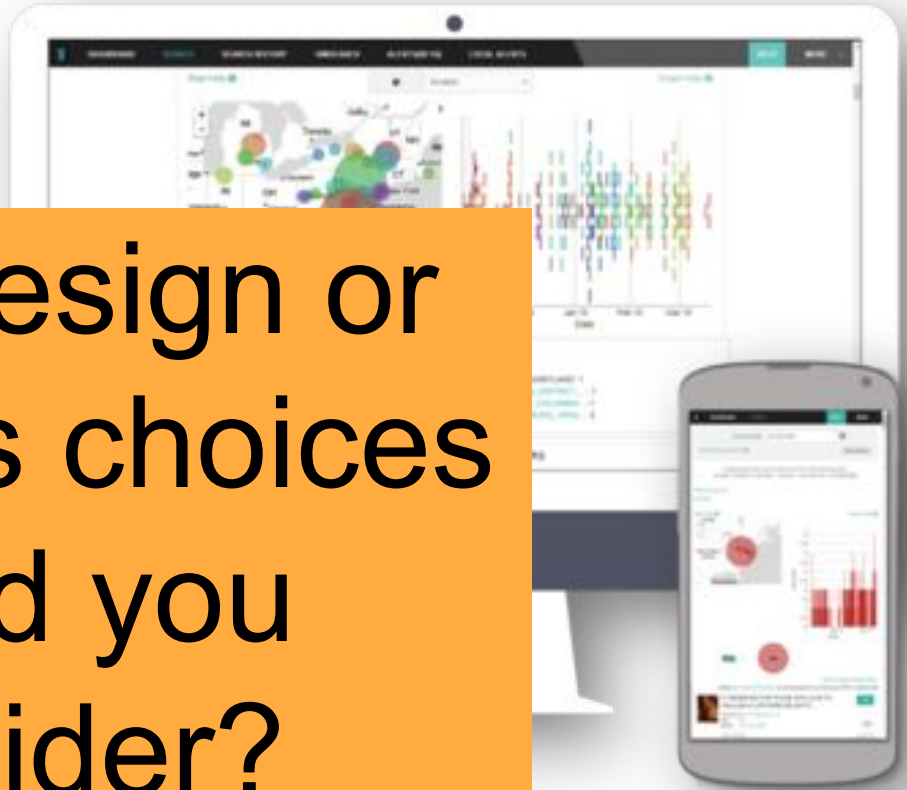


Marinus Analytics

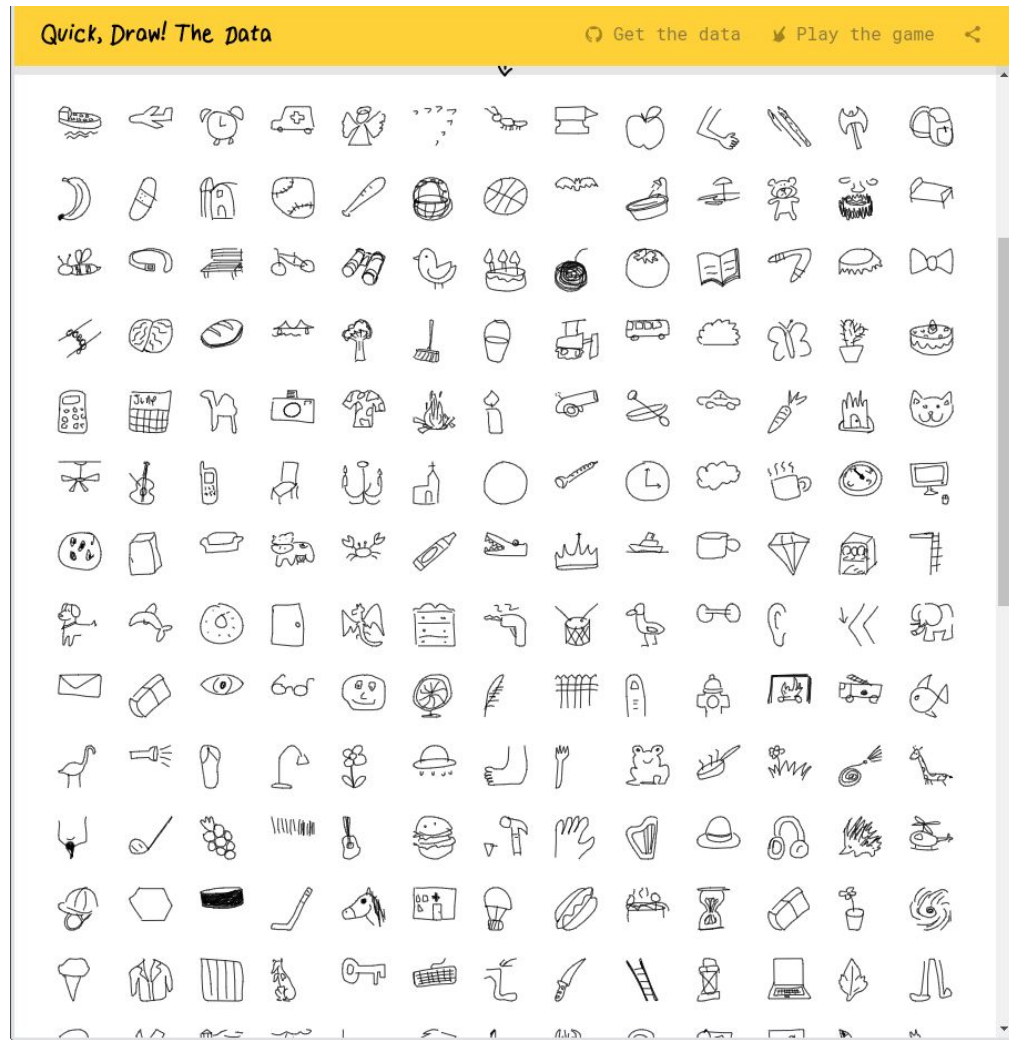


MA
ANA

What design or
business choices
would you
consider?



Google's Quick, Draw




Google's Quick, Draw

donotdraw

Takeaway?

It doesnt recognise a penis #10

Closed EzraOW opened this issue on Jun 23, 2017 · 3 comments

 EzraOW commented on Jun 23, 2017

No description provided.


Assignees
No one assigned





Labels
None yet


Projects
None yet


Milestone
No milestone


Linked pull requests
Successfully merging a pull request may close this issue.
None yet

Notifications Customize
 **Subscribe**
You're not receiving notifications from this thread.

4 participants
   

 **googlecreativelab** locked and limited conversation to collaborators on Jun 23, 2017

 **googlecreativelab** deleted a comment from **makc** on Jun 23, 2017

 HalfdanJ commented on Jun 23, 2017 Member

Intended behavior

Grindr acquisition

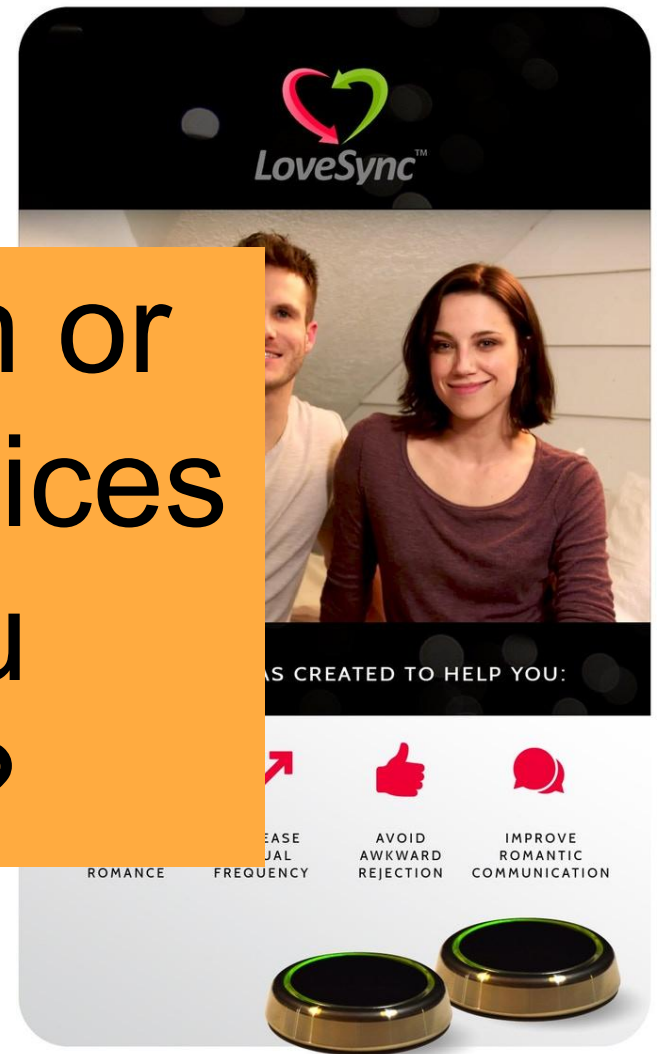
What design or
business choices
would you
consider?



LoveSync

What design or
business choices
would you
consider?

When you're feeling down, you discreetly tap your button. Your desire will be stored for a set time period. No risk of rejection here, and no pressure on your partner - if only one of you tap, nothing happens..

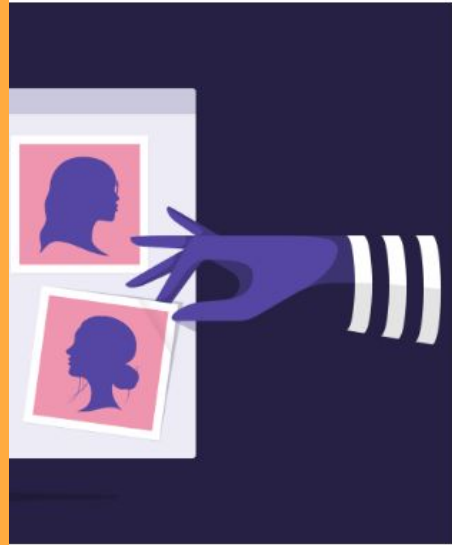


Send Your Nudes To
Facebook
Them Sa

What design or
business choices
would you
consider?

March 15, 2019

A Research-Based Approach to Protecting



By Radha Iyengar, PhD, Head of Product Policy Research and Karuna Nain, Global Safety Policy Programs Manager

The sharing of intimate images online can have serious emotional and physical consequences for the people whose photographs were posted. Sometimes called

Some Other Topics We Didn't Cover

- Online porn dependency and addiction
- effect of porn sites & tube sites on the sex industry
- Sexual harassment (from text to VR)
- Sex robots
- Sexting, minors, changing norms of teenage sexual practices
- Internet as a channel for de-stigmatization
- Relationship between copyright law and content moderation

1. Sexual Content

- a. Complicated interplays between regulation & technical infrastructure

2. Online Sex Trafficking

- a. Data. Is. Hard. Be. Skeptical.
- b. Lots of stakeholders with lots of motivations
- c. Policy often has unintended effects

3. Sextech

- a. Does technical structure match purpose?
- b. Imagine worst-case scenarios

