



Prof. David Evans

Data Privacy Expert

Ex. No.




PXRD007

1:20-cv-03010-APM

1:20-cv-03715-APM

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC FILING

Assignment

-  Evaluate **privacy risks** with the proposed sharing of User-side Data, Ads Data, and Search Data
-  Assess whether **privacy-enhancing technologies** can mitigate those privacy risks while still sharing useful information
-  Respond to the reports of Google's privacy expert

Key Opinions

- 1** There are well-established **privacy-enhancing techniques** that can be used to protect sensitive information.
- 2** Many organizations, including Google, **safely release sensitive data** by using privacy-enhancing techniques.
- 3** Google can share the data at issue in a way that **assures privacy while providing utility**.

Google's Expert Agrees Data Can Be Shared



Chris Culnane, PhD

Google's Expert
Principal & Consultant
Castellate Consulting Ltd.

Q. Dr. Culnane, you believe that it is possible for Google to share what you call the DOJ search data by applying privacy-enhancing techniques to achieve suitable privacy safeguards, don't you?

A. Yes.

Experts' Disagreement

What Dr. Culnane Claims

“In the Search Context,
Only Frequency
Thresholds Provide
Indistinguishability.”

My Opinion

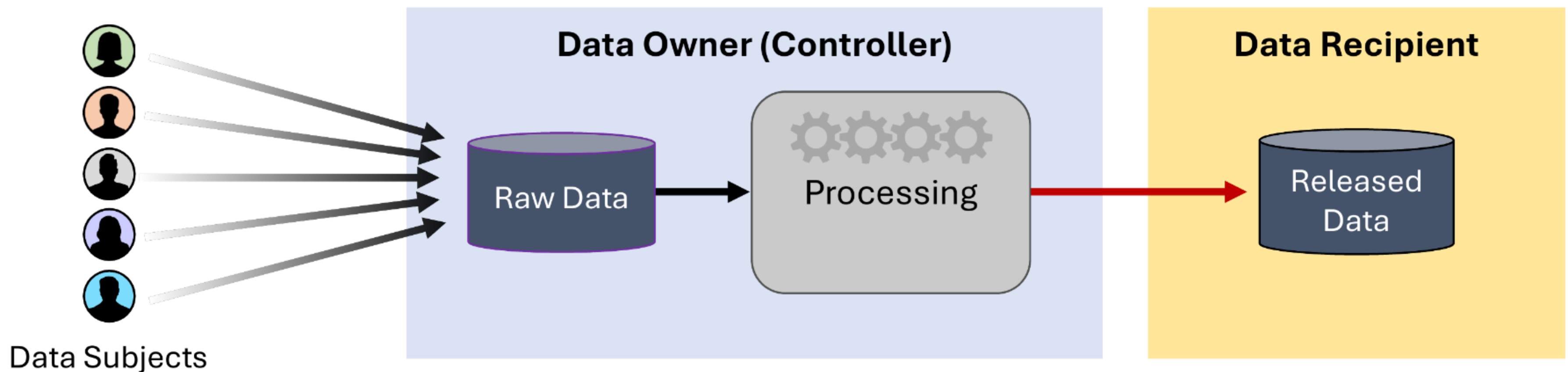
There are many well-established **privacy-enhancing techniques**, and the remedy should **use techniques appropriately to assure privacy while providing high utility.**

What is Data Privacy?

Data Collection

Data Processing

Data Release

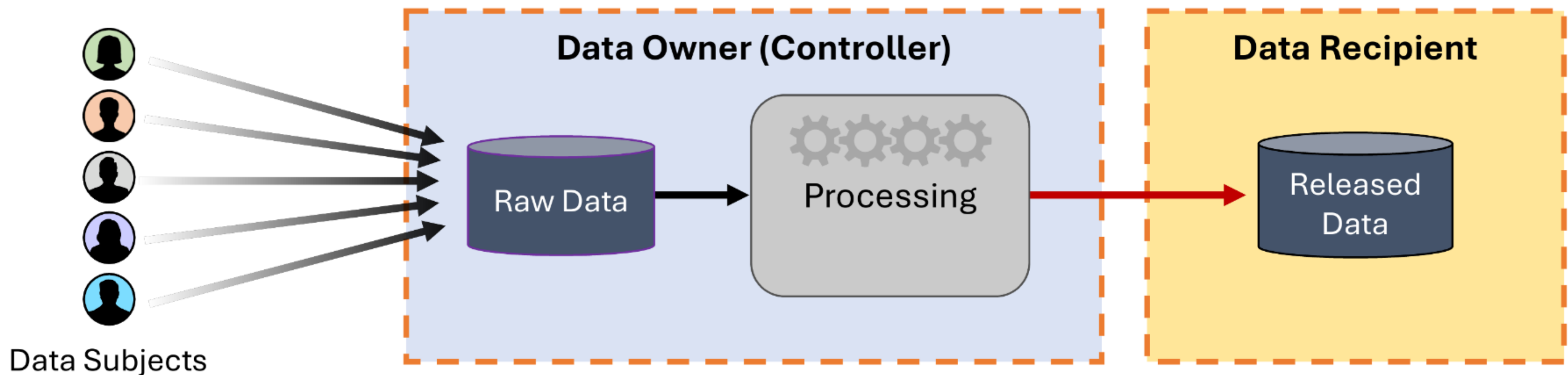


What is Data Privacy?

Data Collection

Data Processing

Data Release



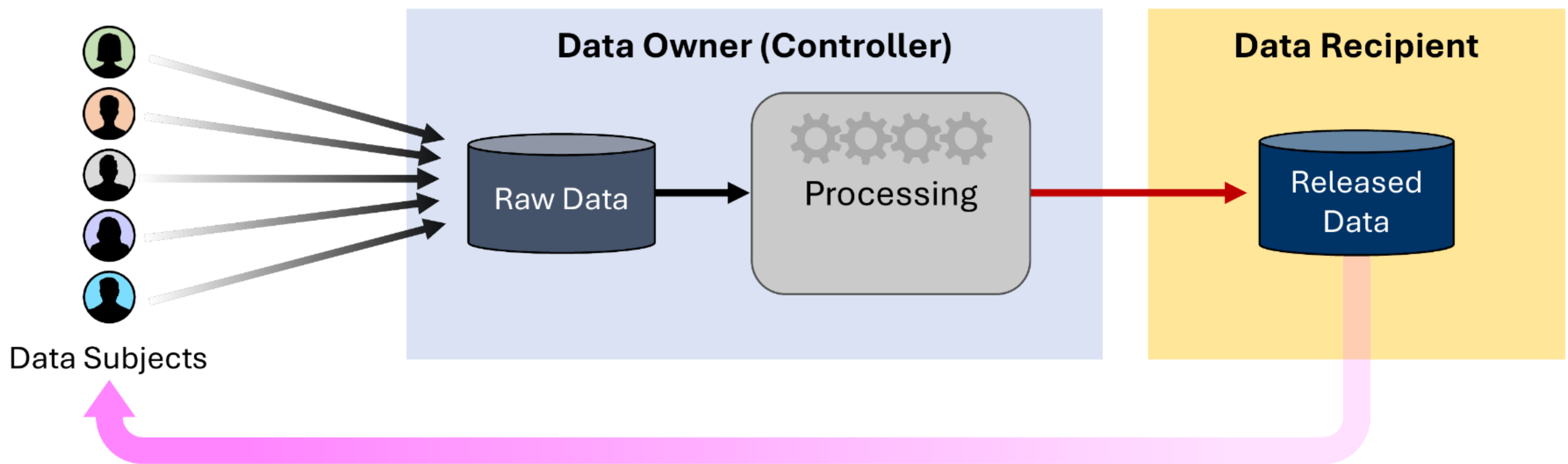
Data security: preventing **unintended releases** of data

What is Data Privacy?

Data Collection

Data Processing

Data Release



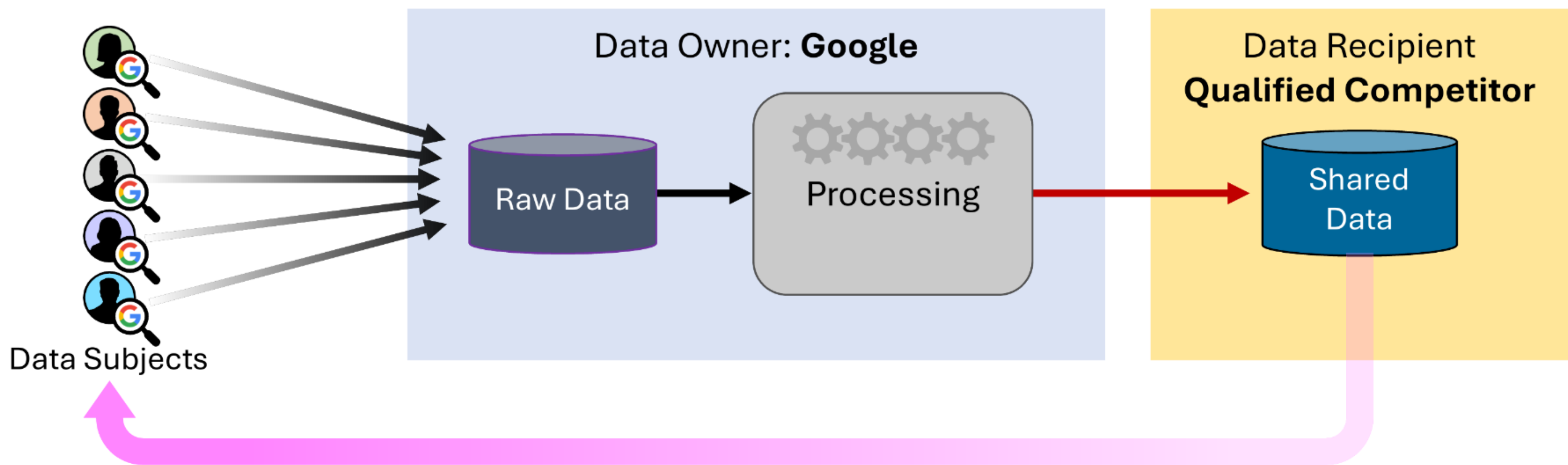
Data privacy: preventing **unintended disclosure** of sensitive information from **intentionally released data**

Data Privacy for Proposed Data Sharing

Data Collection

Data Processing

Data Release



Data privacy issue: potential for **disclosure** of sensitive information from **shared data** and mitigations to share safely

The Data at Issue

User-side Data

RPFJ Sections VI.A, C, & D

Search Index Data

RPFJ Section VI.A

Ads Data

RPFJ Sections VI.E & F



Submitted queries
Clicked-on links
Time looking at results
Hovering over a link
User location
User device
Ranking signals
...

Data Google collects from users and uses to train models
(RankEmbed, NavBoost, Glue, and [REDACTED])


Innocuous Data Can Reveal Sensitive Information

The New York Times

A Face Is Exposed for AOL Searcher No. 4417749

By Michael Barbaro and Tom Zeller Jr.
Aug. 9, 2006

In the privacy of her four-bedroom home, Ms. Arnold searched for the answers to scores of life's questions, big and small. How could she buy "school supplies for Iraq children"? What is the "safest place to live"? What is "the best season to visit Italy"?



Note: Thelma consented to being exposed in the article (her dog did not consent).

Linking

Aggregate Statistics

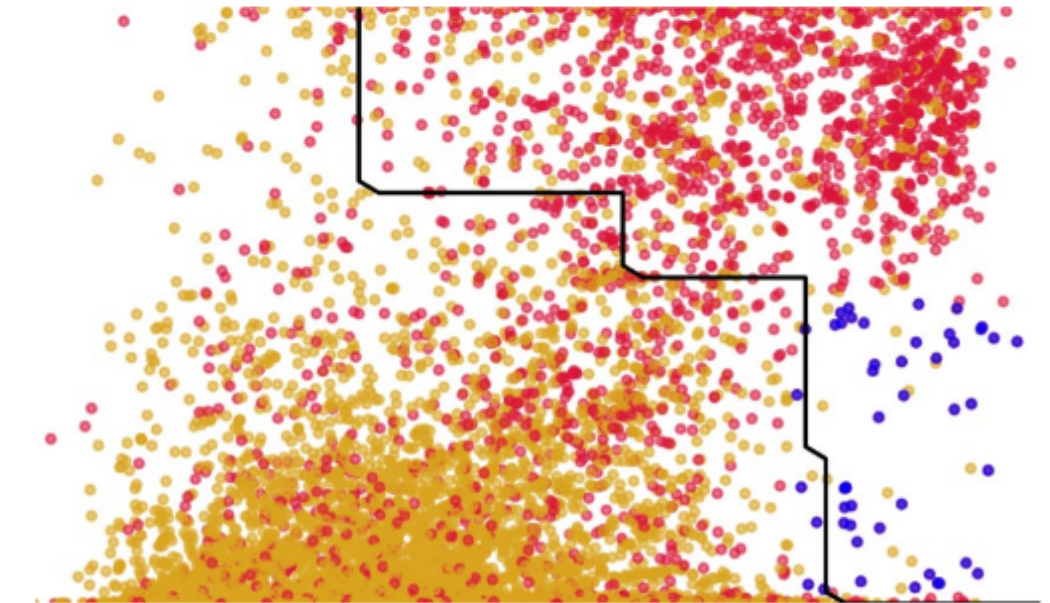
Block	Total	Race 1	...	Race 63	...
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
20394	712	0	...	82	...
20395	2316	3	...	27	...
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮



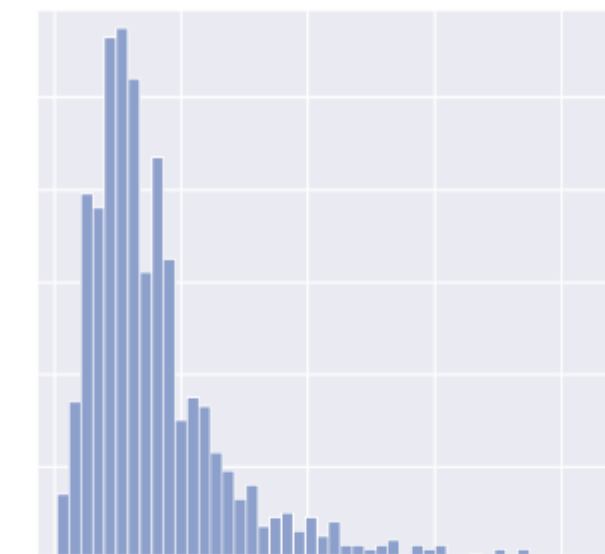
ID	Block	Race	Age	...
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
032	20394	7	23	...
033	20394	5	82	...
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮

Individuals

Reconstruction



Attribute Inference Attacks



Membership Inference Attacks

Inference Attacks

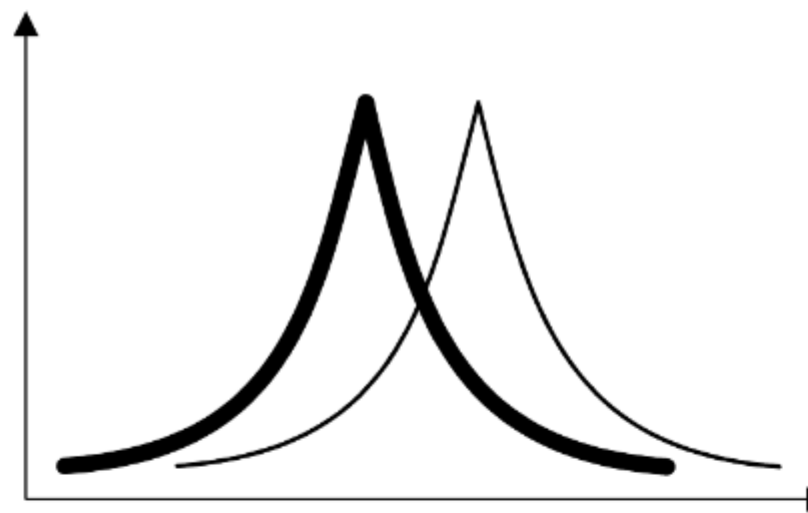
Assessing Privacy Risk

Until ~2000:
ad hoc privacy

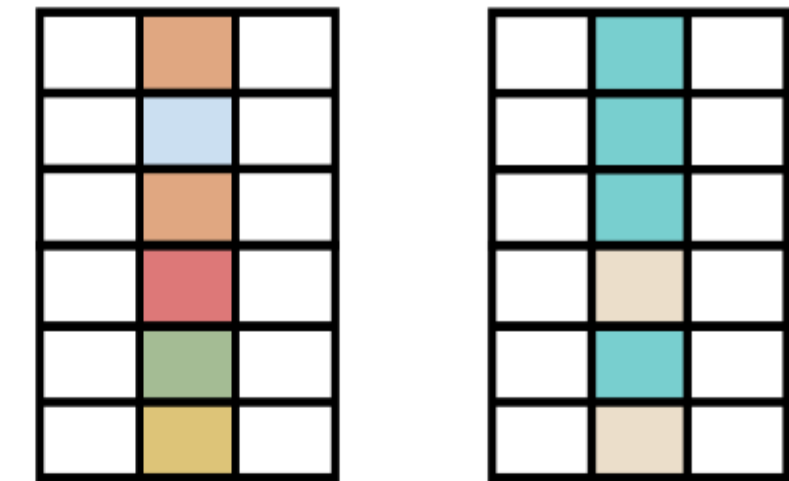
Trying things and
hope they work

Today: formal privacy

Mathematical definitions of privacy and
principled mechanisms for satisfying them



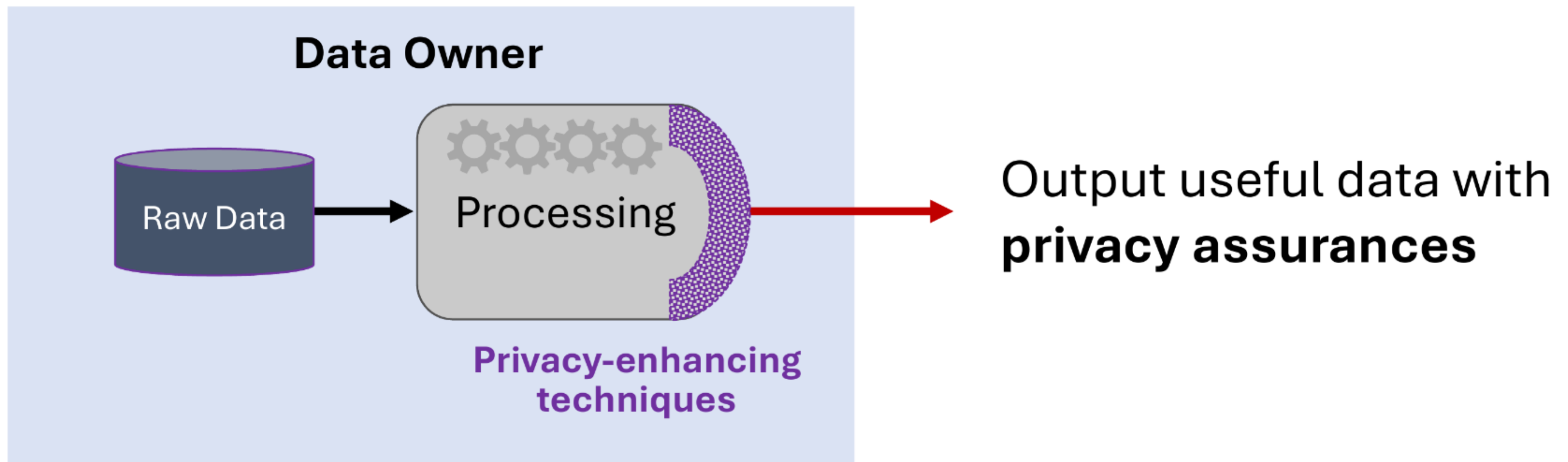
differential privacy



k-anonymity

and hundreds of others...

Privacy-Enhancing Techniques (PETs)



Opinion 1: Privacy-Enhancing Techniques Work

1

There are well-established **privacy-enhancing techniques** that can be used to protect sensitive information.

2

Many organizations, including Google, **safely release sensitive data** by using privacy-enhancing techniques.

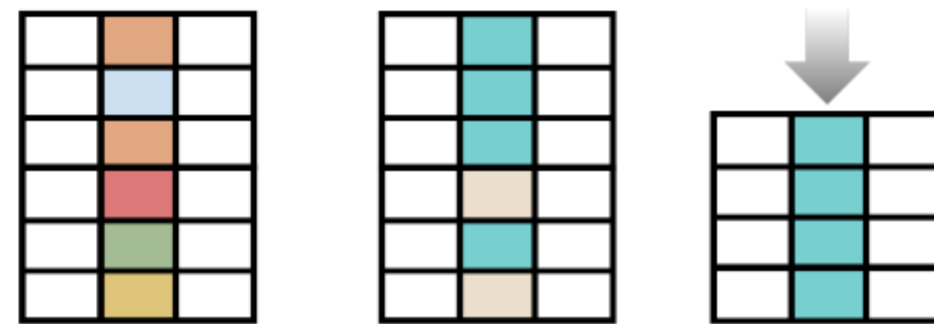
3

Google can share the data at issue in a way that **assures privacy** while **providing utility**.

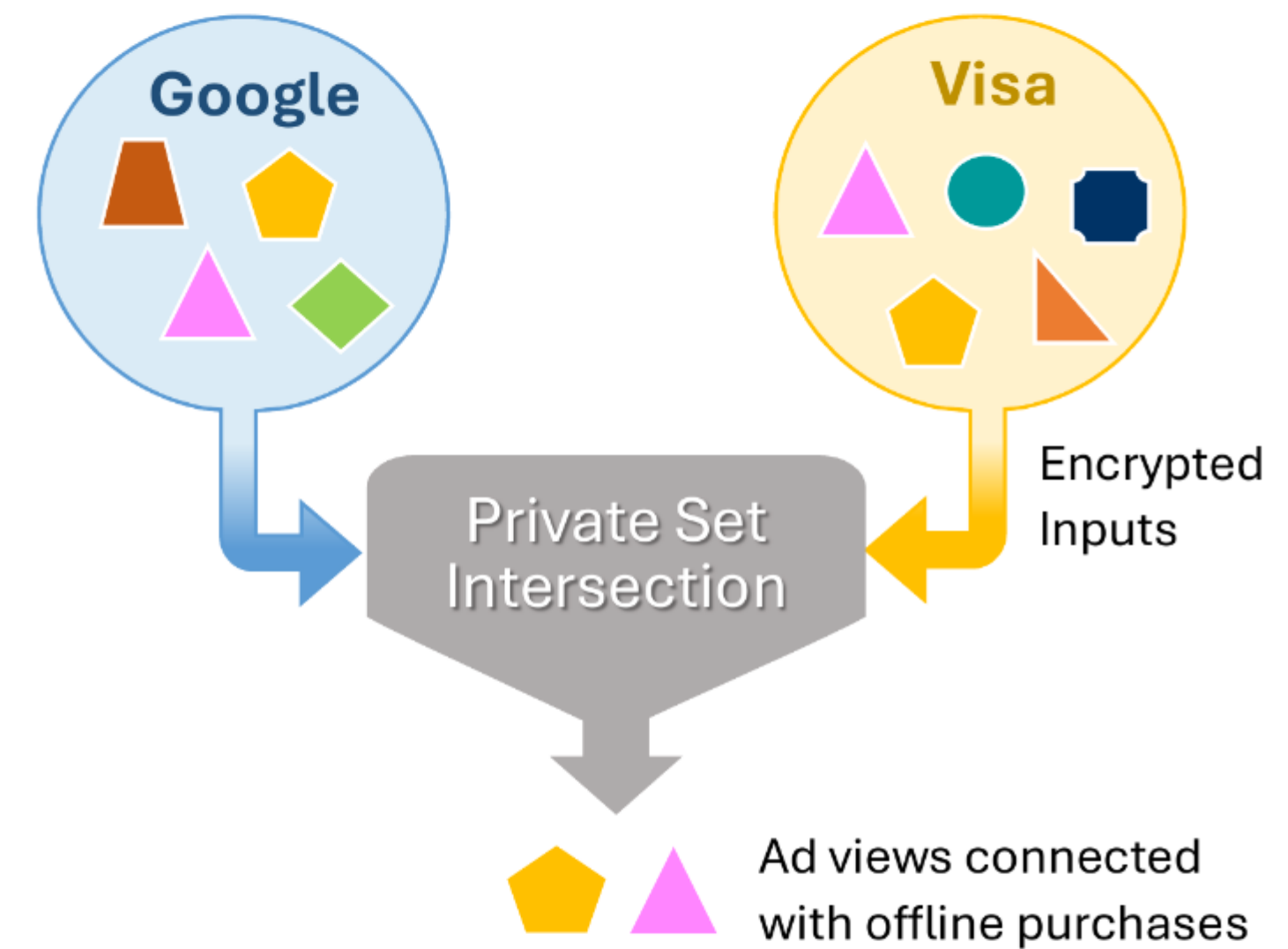
Broad Types of Privacy-Enhancing Techniques



Noise



**Frequency
Bounds**



**Cryptographic
Methods**

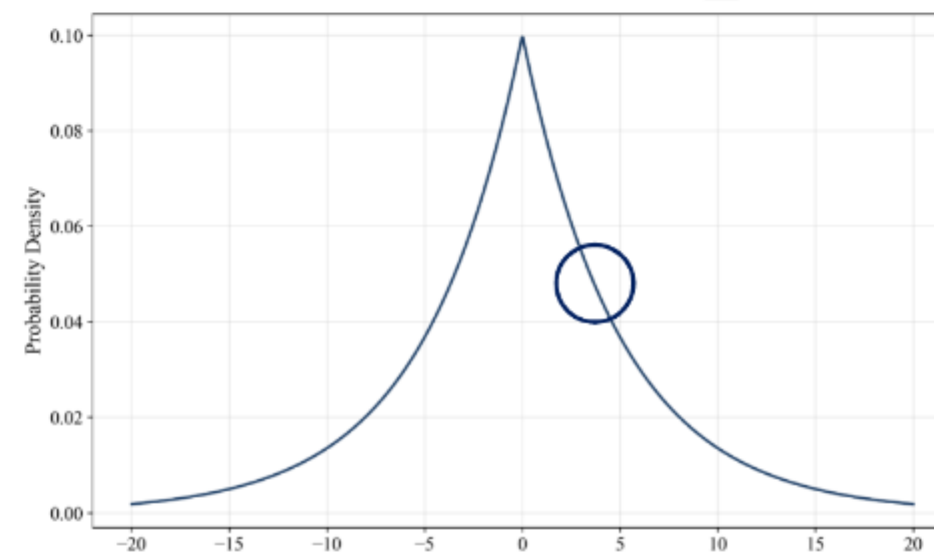
Noise for Privacy

Source Data

629

+

Noise

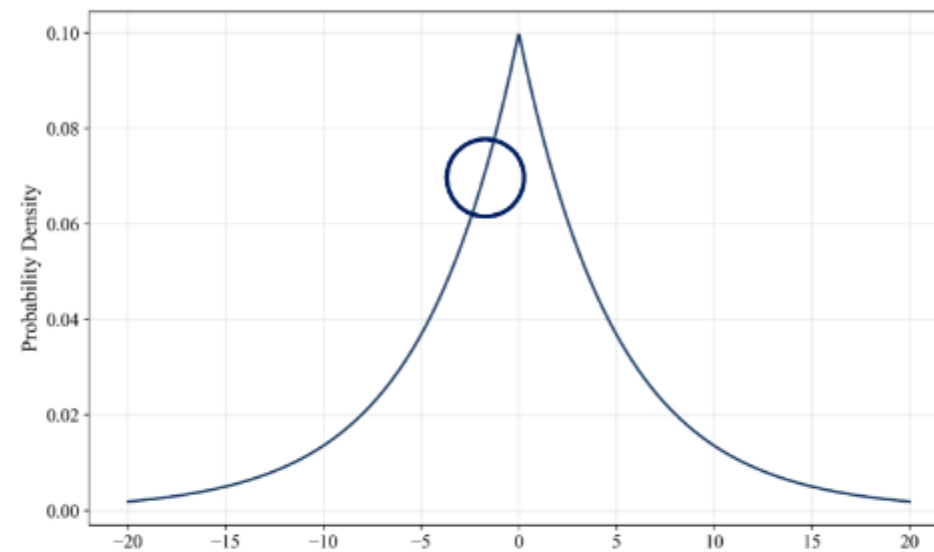


Released Data

= 631.52

629

+



= 628.73

Differential Privacy

Gives a **mathematical bound** on exposure of individual's data

No assumptions needed about what is sensitive information, actual data, what adversary can do, what adversary already knows

$$\frac{\text{Probability of this output from dataset containing user}}{\text{Probability of this output from dataset **without** user}} \leq \exp(\epsilon)$$

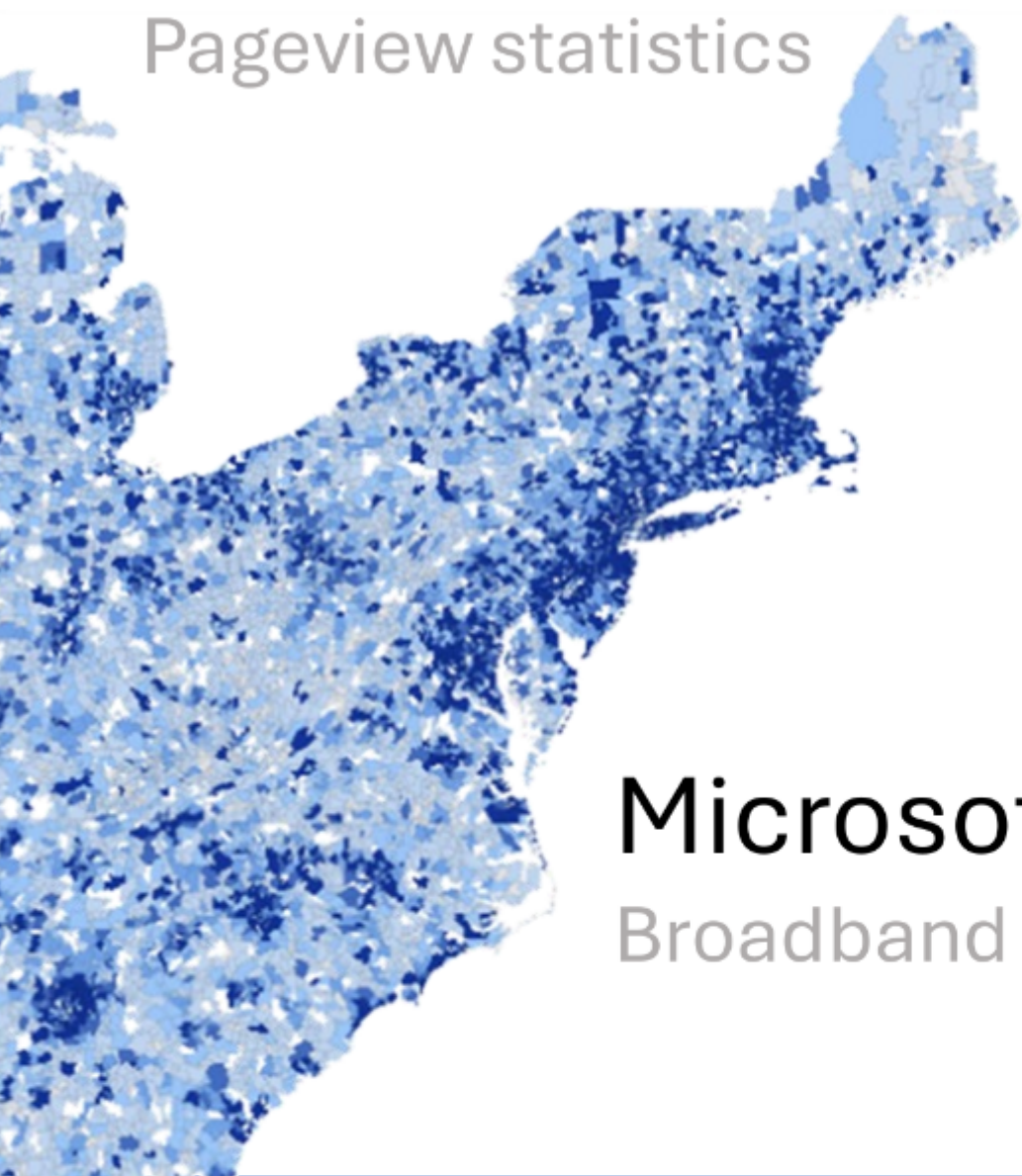
Privacy loss parameter (epsilon) provides precise control of **privacy-utility tradeoff**

Widespread Acceptance and Use



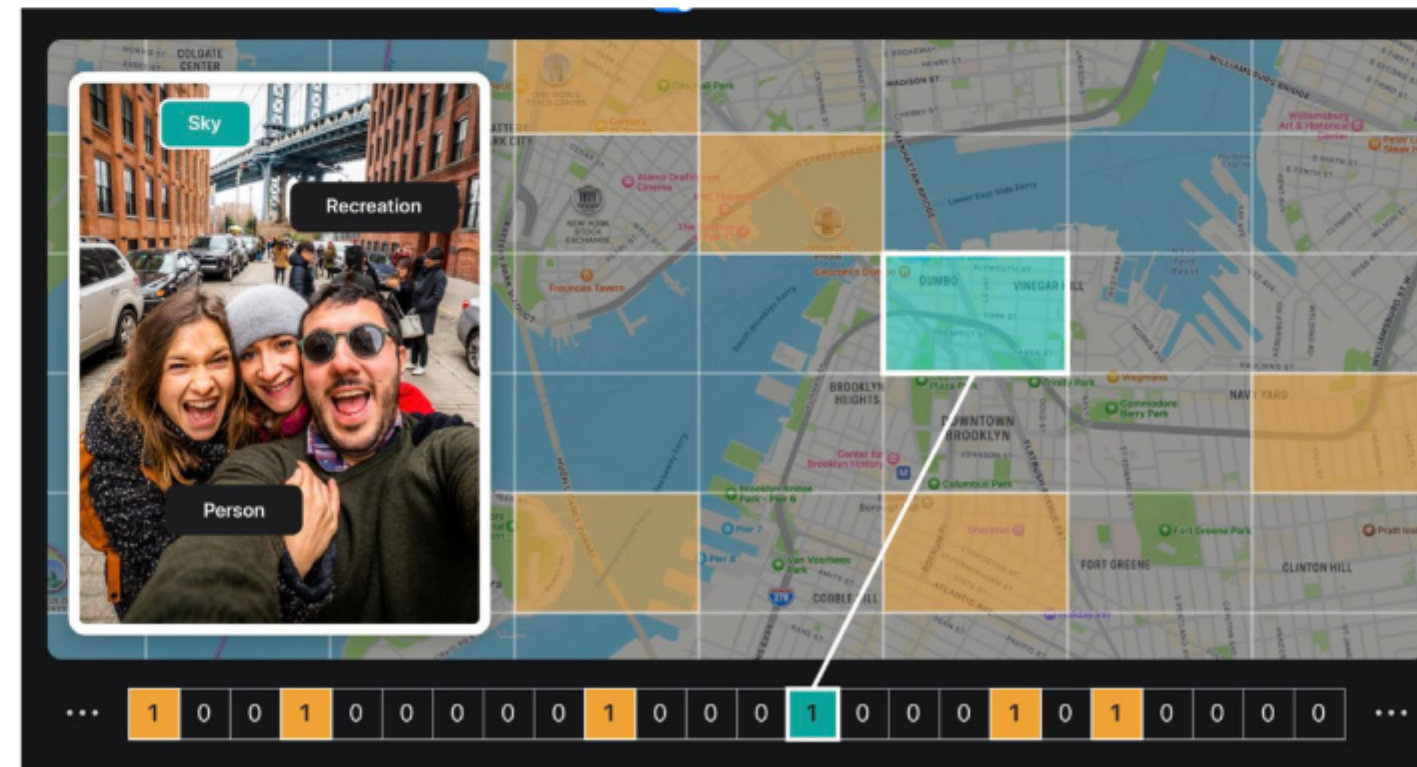
Wikimedia

Pageview statistics



Microsoft

Broadband usage

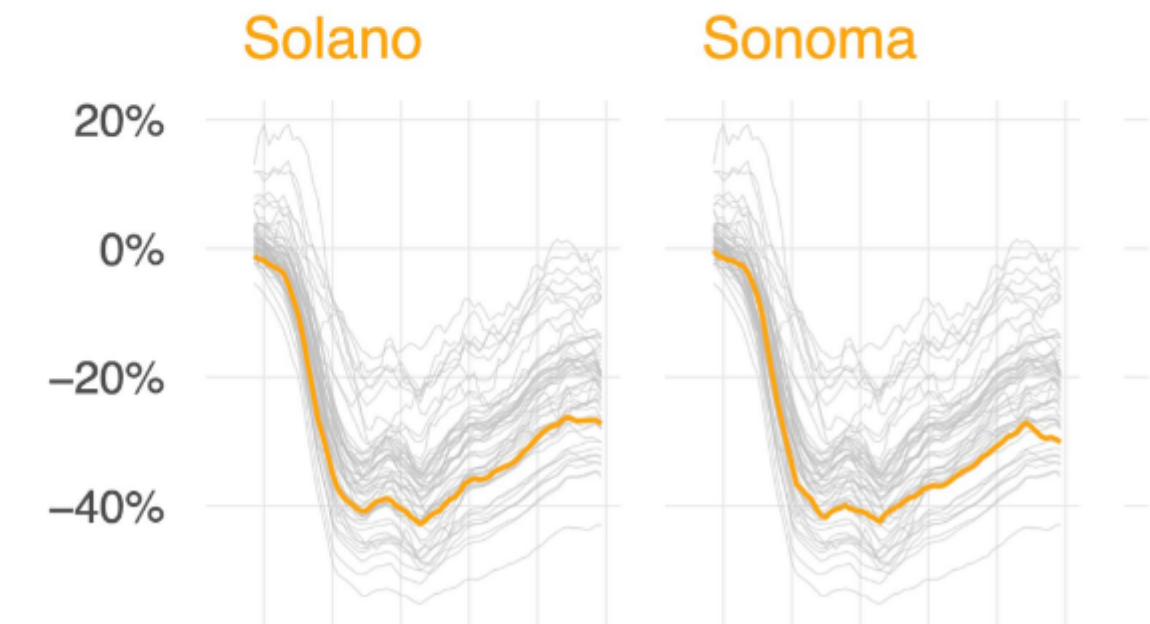


Apple

Learning iconic scenes

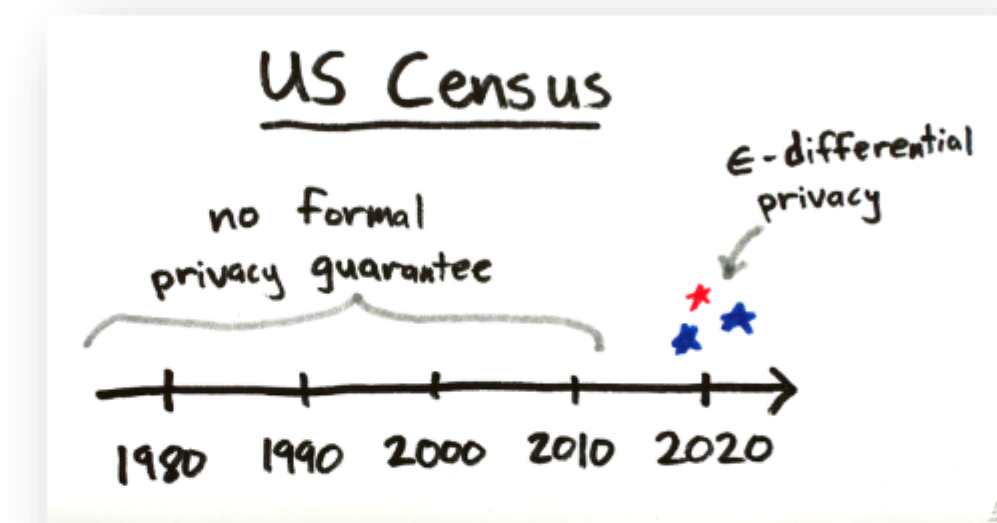
US Census Bureau

Redistricting data



Facebook

Movement dataset



Source: <https://www.tmlt.io/casestudy/revealing-wikipedia-usage-data-while-protecting-privacy>; <https://github.com/microsoft/USBroadbandUsagePercentages/blob/master/assets/broadbandusagezipcode.png>; <https://machinelearning.apple.com/research/scenes-differential-privacy>; https://scontent-iad3-1.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t39.8562-6/240856930_242973511029218_5562704693675330708_n.pdf?nc_cat=101&ccb=1-7&nc_sid=280be&nc_ohc=5PyY0fYO49lQ7kNwFYH-d0&nc_oc=AdmPrkNb3j_Rp-QzysvDOLgV5cCK7_wufNjC2kayD9msa-F7dM_wtXAhR9_u9_qHCxx-iM6hFmS2hj5mij-N&nc_zt=14&nc_ht=scontent-iad3-1.xx&nc_gid=uAGC6BOL4wK0BN6V0ZU9g&oh=00_AfGfHAlrnWMZwus_U9LXz0zP2NtRtV5-i8QgaFvFRg&oe=680A321B; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ot19VwBAqKA>; <https://machinelearning.apple.com/research/scenes-differential-privacy>

Google Uses Differential Privacy (DP)

Confidential

Privileged and Confidential

SeDS Engineering Working Group

DP for SeDS

created: Jul 20, 2022

last updated: Jul 20, 2022

author: Dennis Kraft, Alex Kulesza, Sergei Vassilvitskij, Rachel Wei, Matthew Jagielski

status: WIP

TL;DR

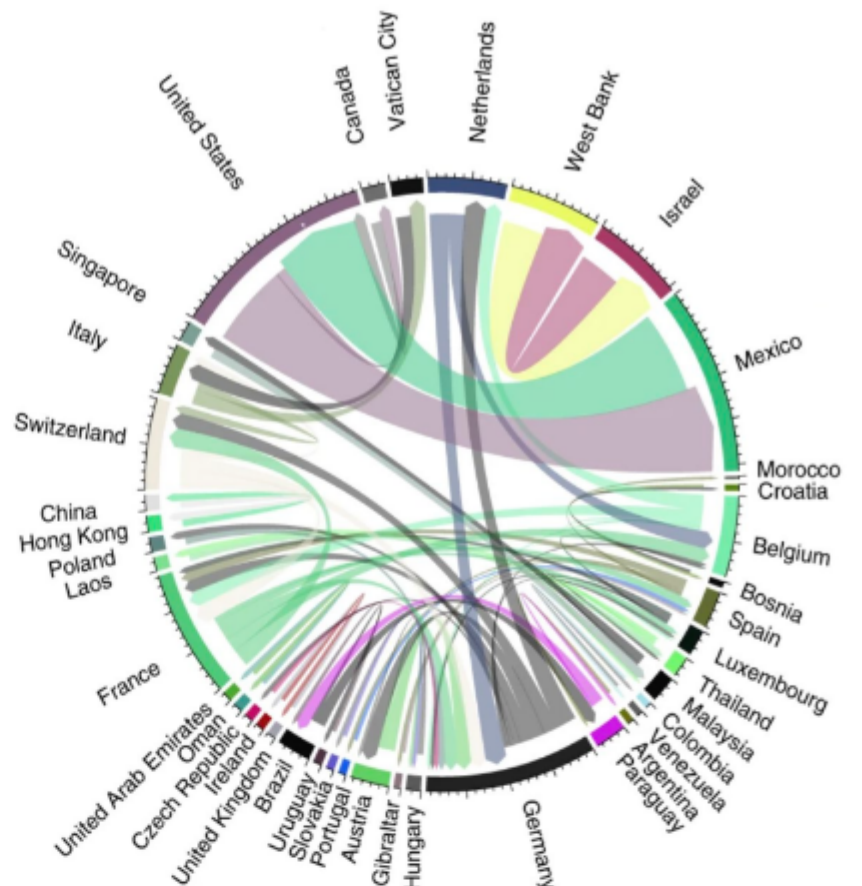
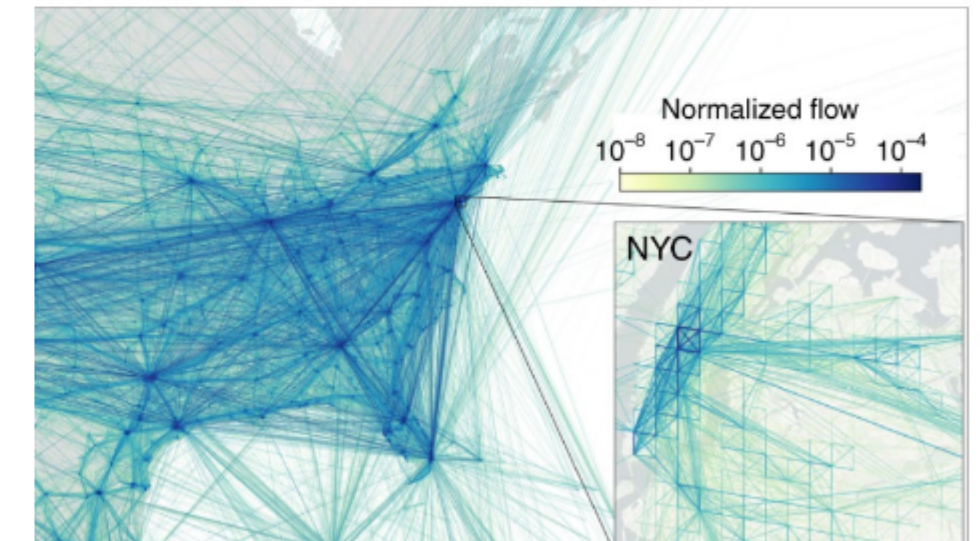
Differential Privacy (DP) is not a specific algorithm or technique. DP is a framework to reason about the personal information contained in data. In the context of SeDS, we can use DP to specify principled bounds determining what and how much personal information will be shared. Once defined, these bounds will guide the design of our privacy mechanism.

Benefits of DP

DP is a privacy framework we can use to specify, implement and communicate the privacy story around SeDS. Key benefits of DP include:

Robust privacy guarantees: DP allows us to make strict and principled statements about privacy. If we enforce a certain DP specification, is it mathematically impossible to extract more information from the data than intended. This is particularly important when sharing data externally (as is the case for SeDS) given that we have limited control over the data after it has been released. Common sources of privacy issues DP is robustly protects against include:

Differential privacy is a well-established way to deal with the risk of *model memorization*,* where a shared model's parameters might be too influenced by a single contributor.



Internal Google Document

Google AI Comic

Variation in Mobility

K-anonymity Formal Privacy Definition

Privacy definition that requires that any released data record is **indistinguishable** from at least $k - 1$ other records.

Query	Location	Device	
best Mexican food	(38.8977°, 77.0365°)	Pixel9a-Android15-v23.523	
Query	Location	Device	Indistinguishable
best Mexican food	(38.8977°, 77.0365°)	Pixel9a-Android15-v23.523	
Query	Location	Device	Indistinguishable?
best m exican food	(38.8977°, 77.036 4 °)	Pixel9a-Android15-v 22.173	
Query	Location	Device	Indistinguishable?
mexican restaurant	(38.8977°, 77.0365°)	Pixel9a-Android15-v 21.083	

How to Satisfy K -anonymity

Source data
($k=1$)

Query	Location	Device
best Mexican food	(38.8977°, 77.0365°)	Pixel9a-Android15-v23.523
best Mexican food	(38.8977°, 77.0365°)	Pixel9a-Android15-v23.523
best m exican food	(38.8977°, 77.036 4 °)	Pixel9a-Android15-v 22.173
mexican r estaurant	(38.8977°, 77.0365°)	Pixel9a-Android15-v 21.083

Record removal



Released data
($k=2$)

Query	Location	Device
best Mexican food	(38.8977°, 77.0365°)	Pixel9a-Android15-v23.523
best Mexican food	(38.8977°, 77.0365°)	Pixel9a-Android15-v23.523
best m exican food	(38.8977°, 77.036 4 °)	Pixel9a-Android15-v 22.173
mexican r estaurant	(38.8977°, 77.0365°)	Pixel9a-Android15-v 21.083

How to Satisfy K -anonymity with Utility

Source data
($k=1$)

Query	Location	Device
best Mexican food	(38.8977°, 77.0365°)	Pixel9a-Android15-v23.523
best Mexican food	(38.8977°, 77.0365°)	Pixel9a-Android15-v23.523
best m exican food	(38.8977°, 77.036 4 °)	Pixel9a-Android15-v 22.173
mexican r estaurant	(38.8977°, 77.0365°)	Pixel9a-Android15-v 21.083




Generalization



Suppression



Released data
($k=3$)

Query	Location	Device
best Mexican food	DC 20500	Pixel9a-Android15 
best Mexican food	DC 20500	Pixel9a-Android15 
best Mexican food	DC 20500	Pixel9a-Android15 
mexican r estaurant	DC 20500	Pixel9a-Android15-v 21.083

Better Generalization Improves Utility

Source data
($k=1$)

Query	Location	Device
best Mexican food	(38.8977°, 77.0365°)	Pixel9a-Android15-v23.523
best Mexican food	(38.8977°, 77.0365°)	Pixel9a-Android15-v23.523
best m exican food	(38.8977°, 77.036 4 °)	Pixel9a-Android15-v 22.173
mexican r estaurant	(38.8977°, 77.0365°)	Pixel9a-Android15-v 21.083





Generalization



Suppression



Released data
($k=4$)

Query Intent	Location	Device
Mexican restaurant	DC 20500	Pixel9a-Android15 
Mexican restaurant	DC 20500	Pixel9a-Android15 
Mexican restaurant	DC 20500	Pixel9a-Android15 
Mexican restaurant	DC 20500	Pixel9a-Android15 

Example uses Generalization for *K*-anonymity



CDC

Public Use Data

Generalization
Partial Suppression
L-diversity



Cloudflare

Validating Leaked Passwords

Generalization
Partial Suppression

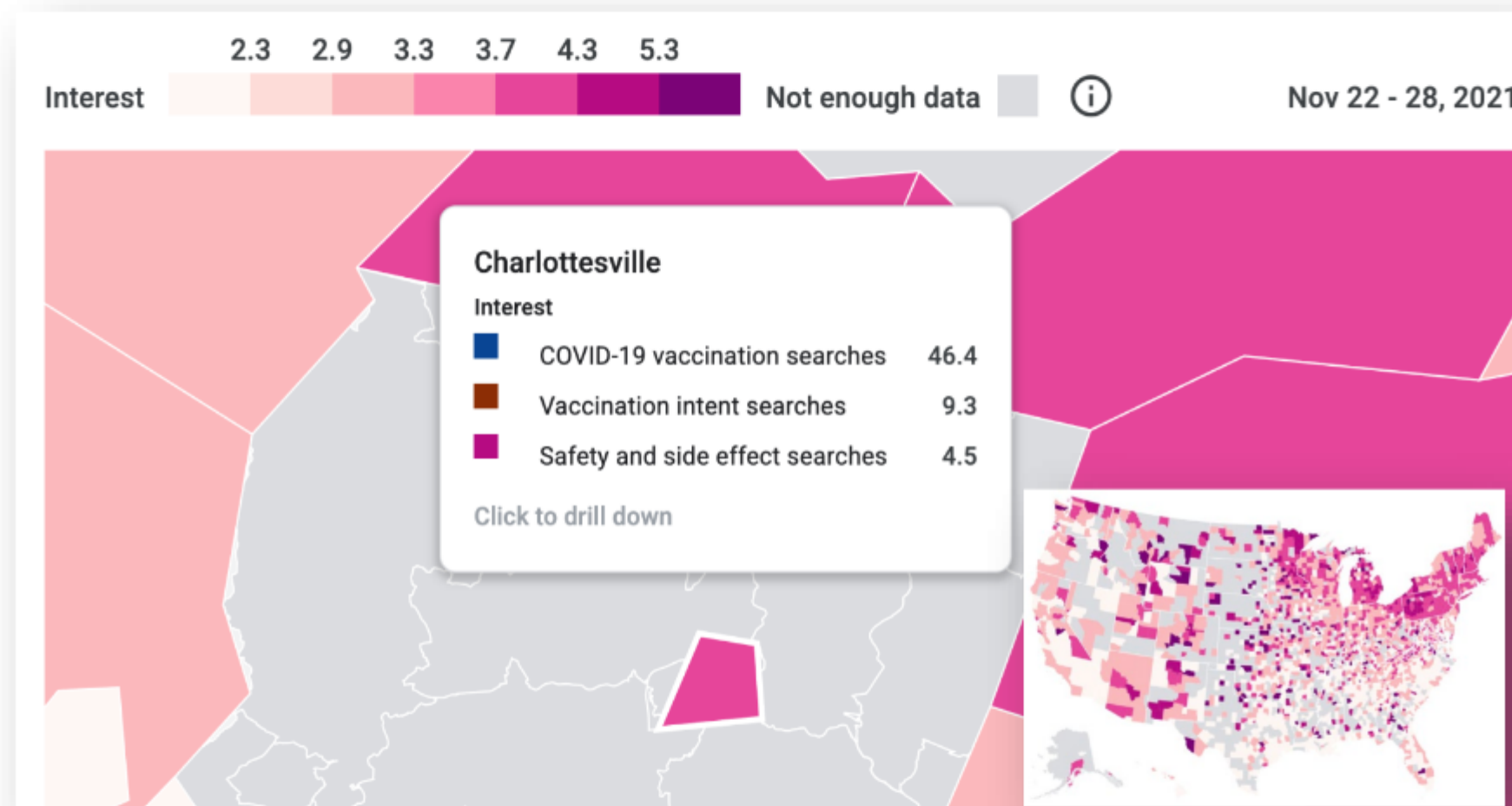


Facebook

URLs Dataset

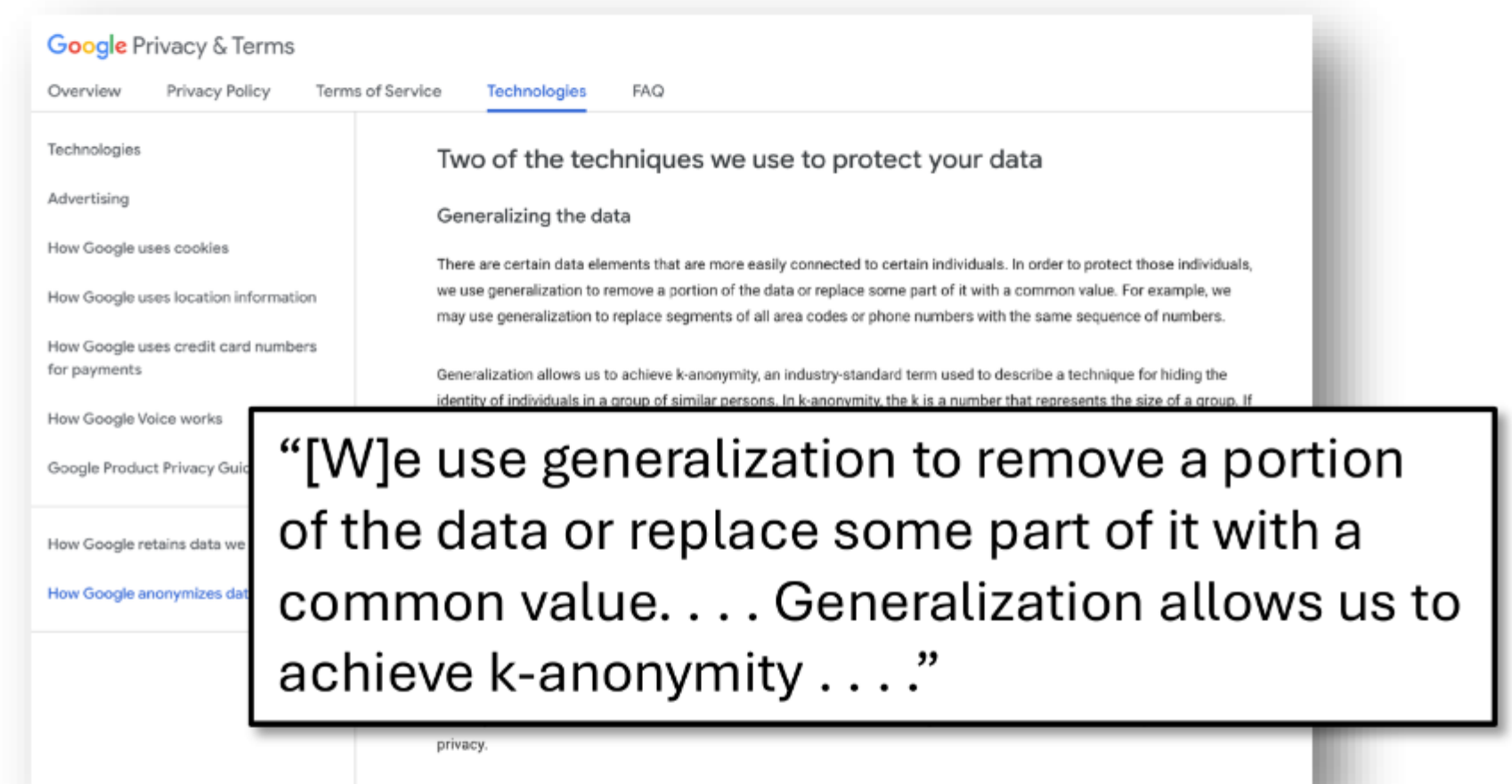
Generalization
Partial Suppression
Differential Privacy

Uses of Generalization for Privacy at Google



COVID-19 Vaccination Search Insights

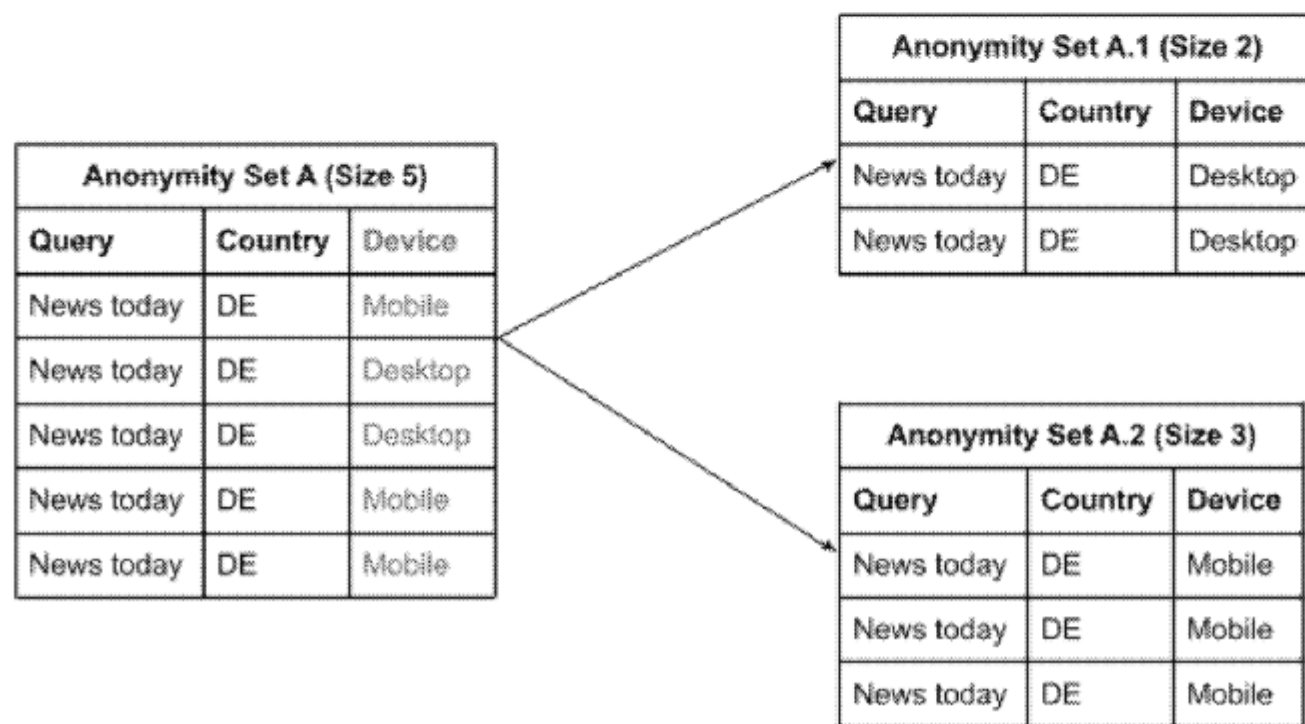
Generalization (Geographic, Time, Grouping search queries)



Google's Privacy Policy

Generalization for k-anonymity

Google's Data Sharing Implementation For DMA



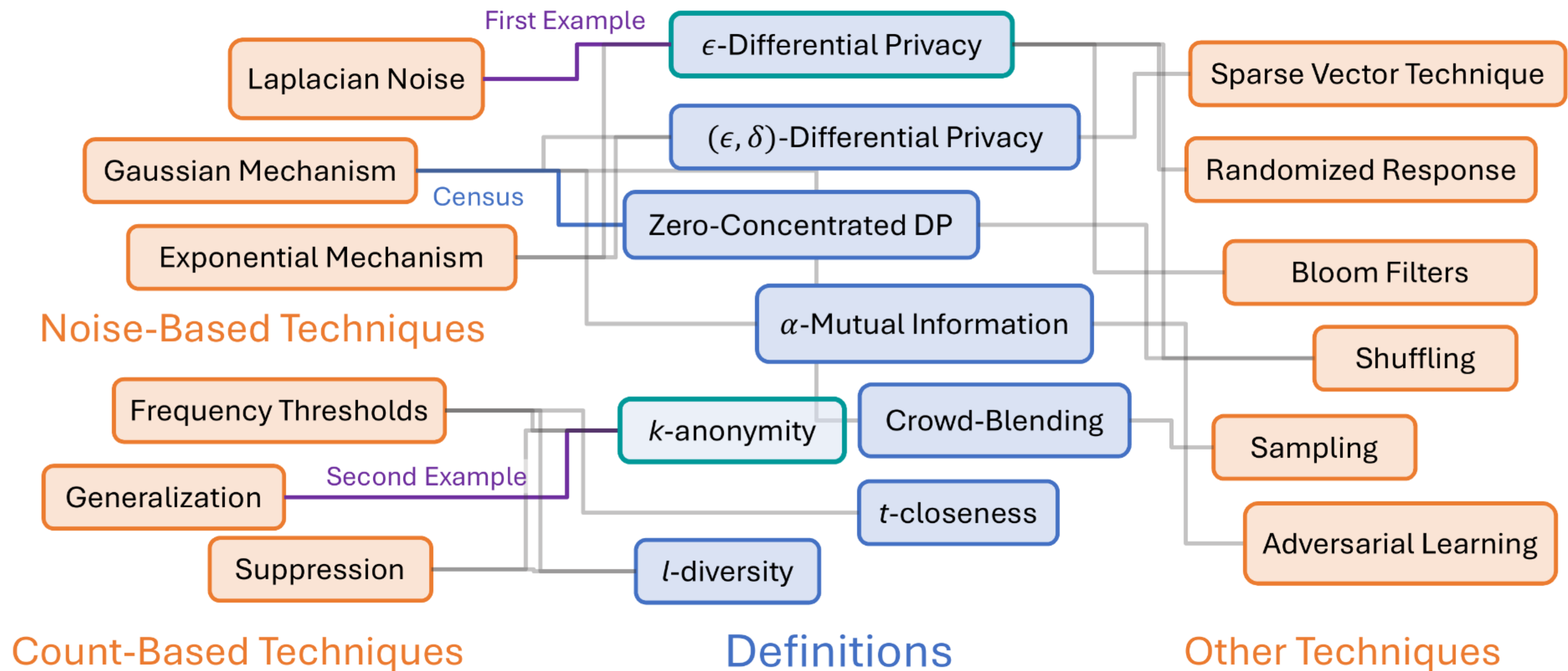
No Field Suppression
No Generalization
No Spell-Correcting Queries
No Grouping by Query Intent

Google's Experts' Report on DMA
(Dr. Culnane and Prof. Rubenstein)

21. Google identified three additional recovery mechanisms and is working on implementing them. These mechanisms require significant engineering work to develop and will therefore not be ready for the initial dataset, but Google expects to introduce them for the second quarterly release of its Art. 6(11) dataset.
22. First, Google has developed a privacy-safe way to release additional data about low-volume queries. For queries that typically fail to meet the m-threshold for a given country, Google will apply the threshold at an EEA-wide level, and report combined statistics across the EEA instead of by country. **Generalization by combining all countries**
23. Second, Google Search automatically corrects some typos and misspellings in user queries, showing the user results for the corrected query. Before anonymization, Google will replace "typo" queries that were automatically corrected for the results shown to the user with their corrected versions. **Generalization by fixing "typo" queries**
24. Third, Google has developed an additional mechanism to "map" certain low-frequency queries that Search does not automatically correct (e.g., [mssql

Google's Second Response to European Commission
(January 2024, 1¼ years after DMA)

Many Formal Privacy Definitions And Principled Techniques



Opinion 2: PETs Can Be Used To Safely Release Useful Data

1

There are well-established **privacy-enhancing techniques** that can be used to protect sensitive information.

2

Many organizations, including Google, **safely release sensitive data** by using privacy-enhancing techniques.

3

Google can share the data at issue in a way that **assures privacy** while **providing utility**.

Selecting Appropriate Privacy-Enhancing Techniques

Properties of the source data

- Type and amount
- Granularity
- Dimensionality
- Sensitivity
- Update frequency
- ...

Disclosure Risk

Uses of the released data

- Amount required
- Granularity needed
- Correlations used
- Accuracy thresholds
- Sharing frequency
- ...

Data Utility

Selecting Privacy-Enhancing Techniques for Data at Issue

Slide 37 from Google's Opening Statement

Plaintiffs' Privacy Expert Offers No Opinion



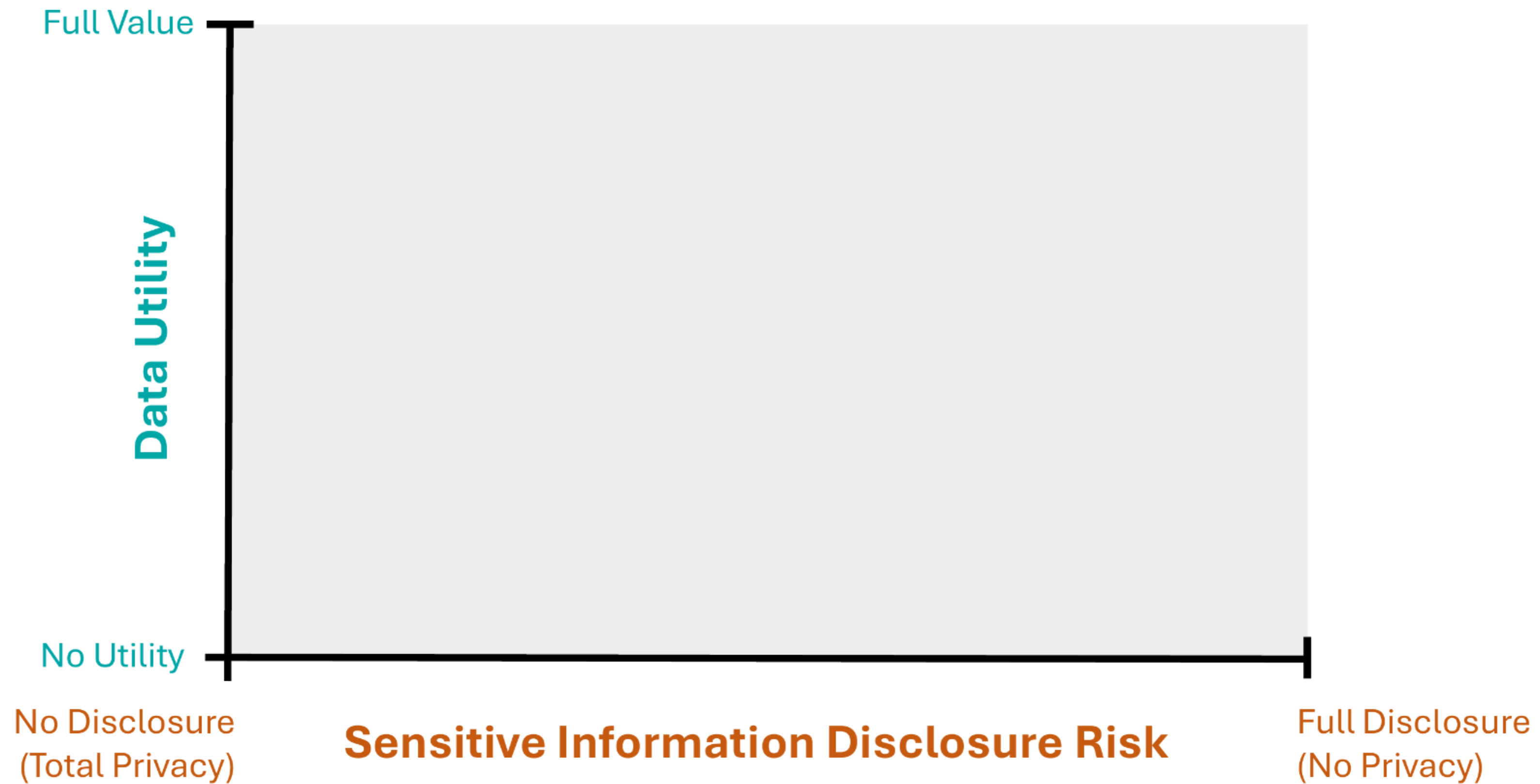
**David
Evans, PhD.**
DOJ Expert

- A. There are many ways to protect text data, and one way is to use the frequency-based method to achieve a definition similar to K-anonymity.
- Q. That is what you propose should be done here?
- A. I don't make any proposal as to what should be done here. I just speak to the availability of many different privacy-enhancing techniques that could be used to satisfy the requirements of the RPFJ.

Evans (DOJ) Trial Tr. 130:10-22

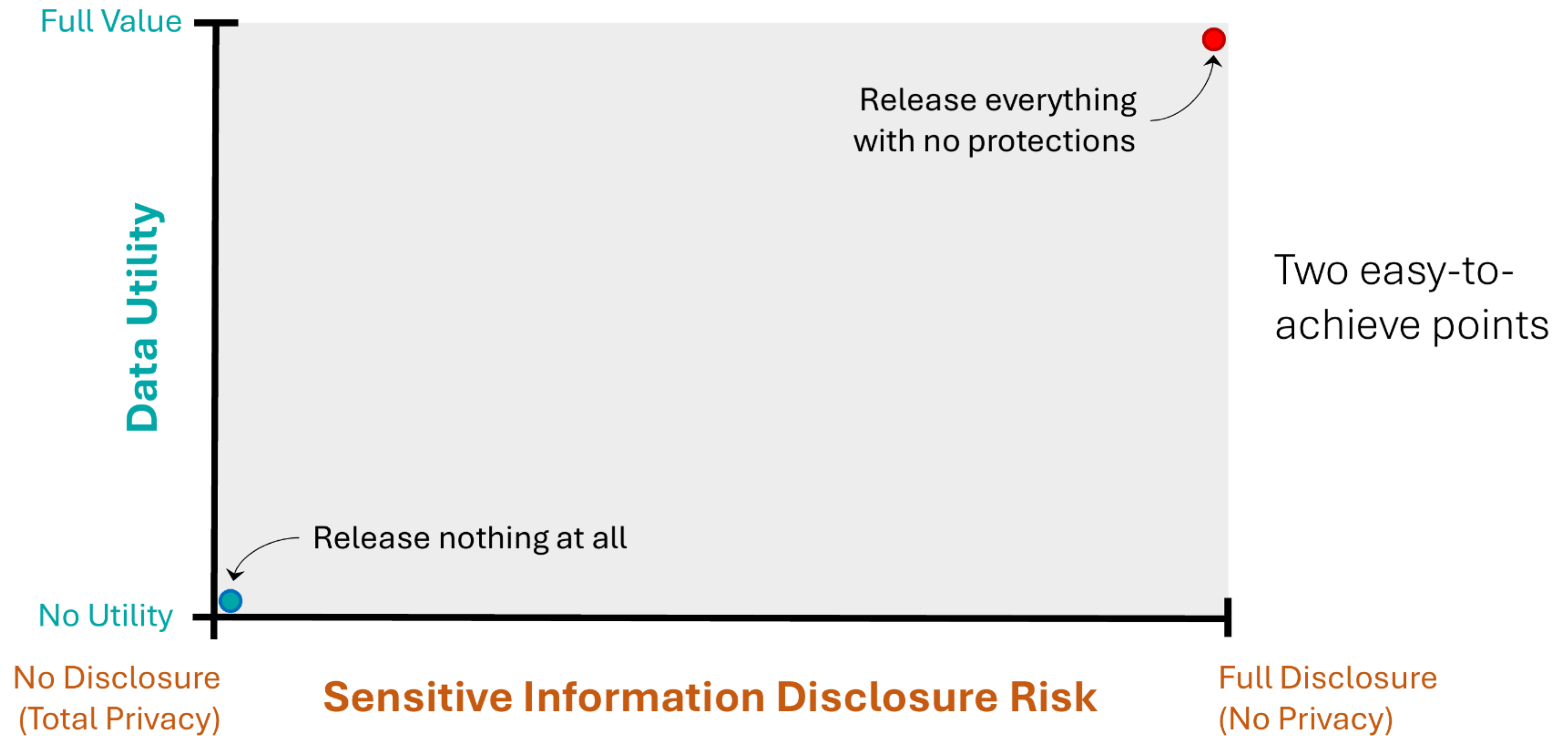
Google
RDXD-01.037

Privacy–Utility Tradeoff



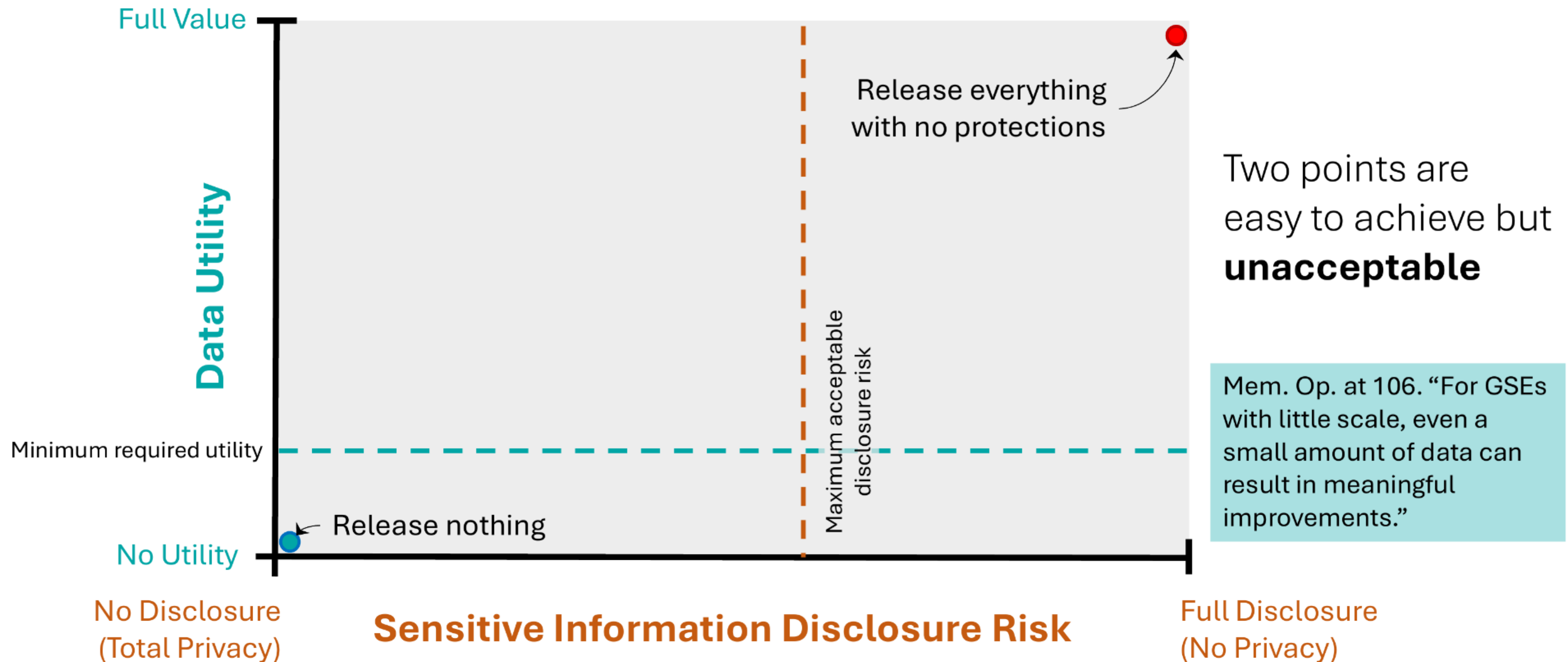
Source: Adapted from Opening Report Figure 1: Privacy – utility tradeoff curve.

Privacy–Utility Tradeoff



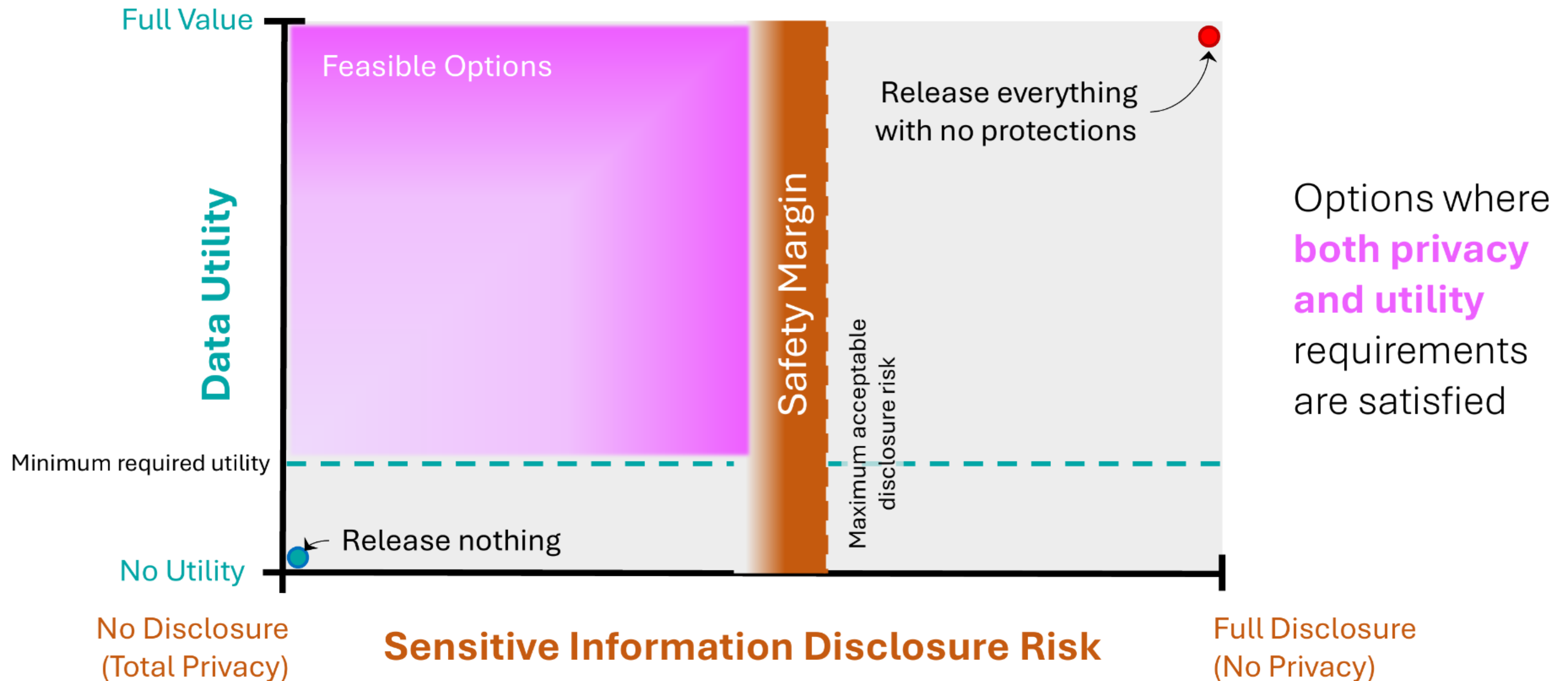
Source: Adapted from Opening Report Figure 1: Privacy – utility tradeoff curve.

Privacy–Utility Tradeoff



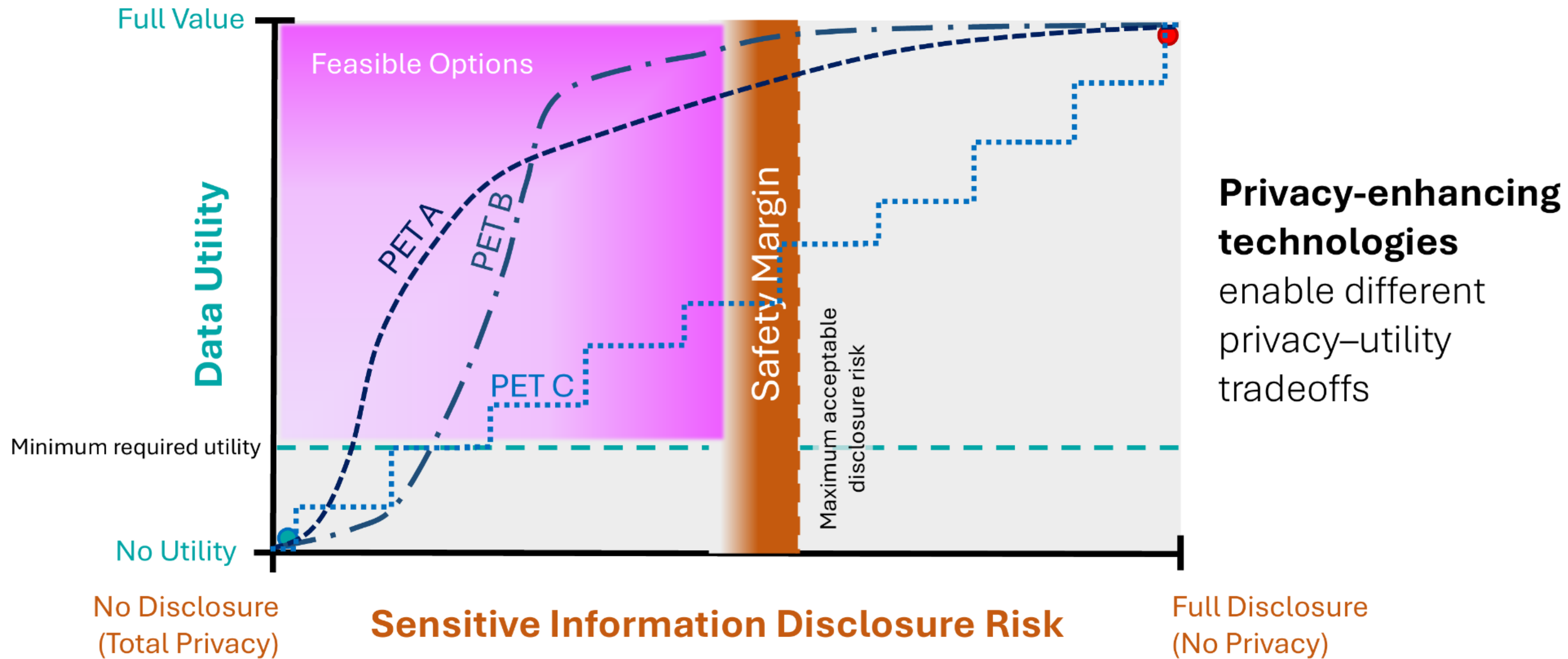
Source: Adapted from Opening Report Figure 1: Privacy – utility tradeoff curve.

Privacy–Utility Tradeoff



Source: Adapted from Opening Report Figure 1: Privacy – utility tradeoff curve.

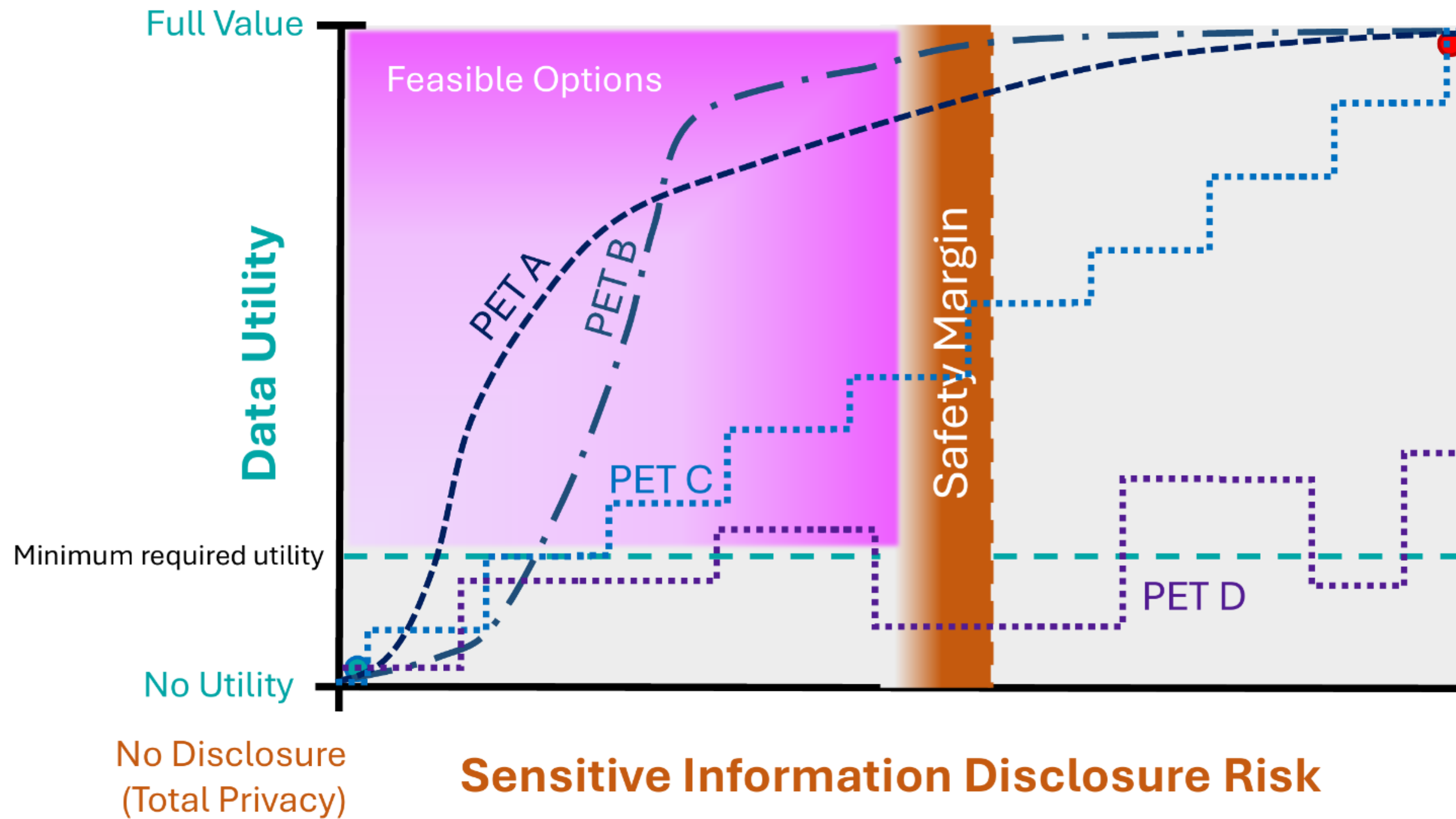
Privacy–Utility Tradeoff



Source: Adapted from Opening Report Figure 1: Privacy – utility tradeoff curve.

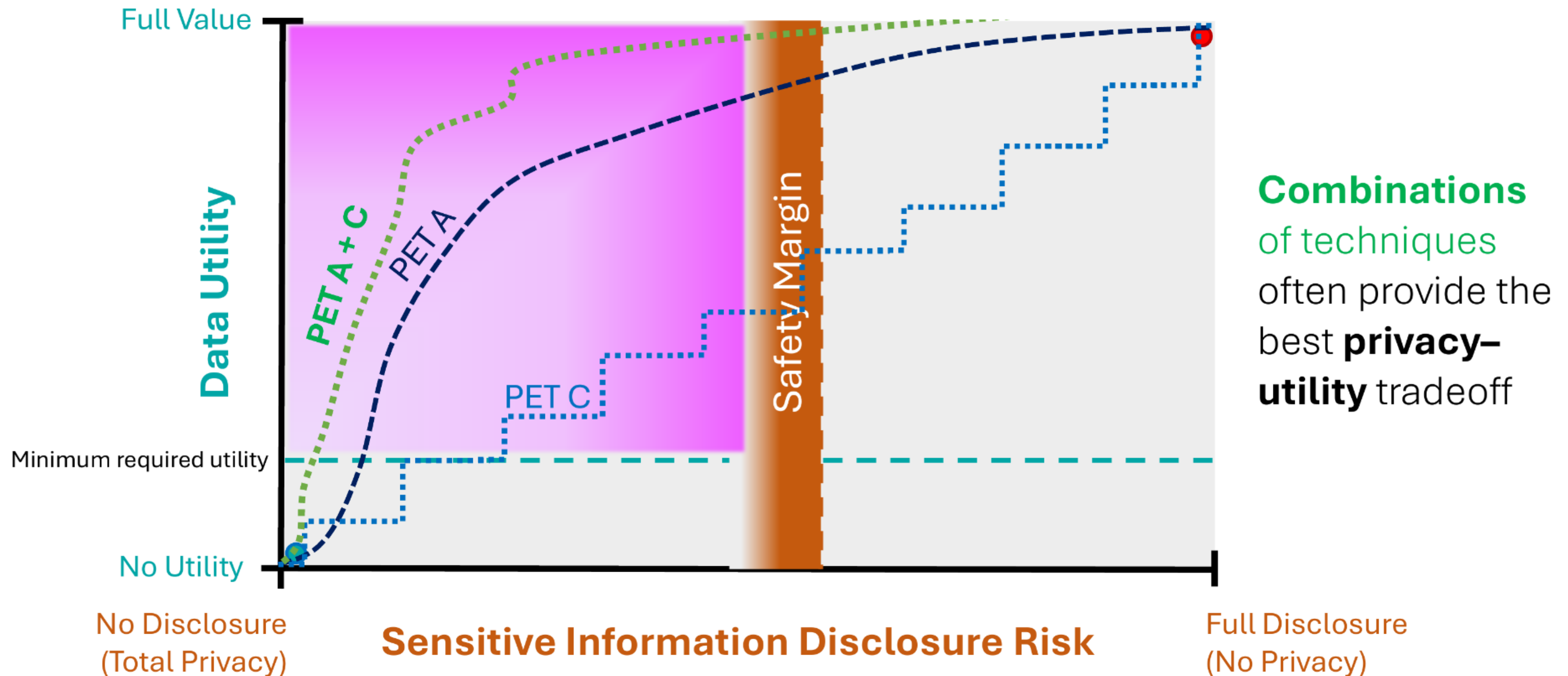
35

Privacy–Utility Tradeoff



Privacy-enhancing technologies could (**but never should**) be used in ways that **reduce both privacy and utility**

Privacy–Utility Tradeoff



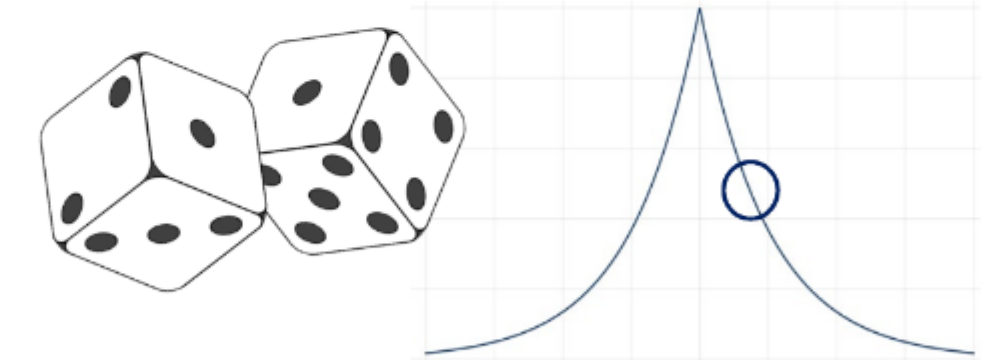
Source: Adapted from Opening Report Figure 1: Privacy – utility tradeoff curve.

Example: Combining PETs

Query	Location
Mexican restaurant	DC 20500
resturant mexican	DC 20500
Mexican restuarant	DC 20500
mexican history	DC 20500

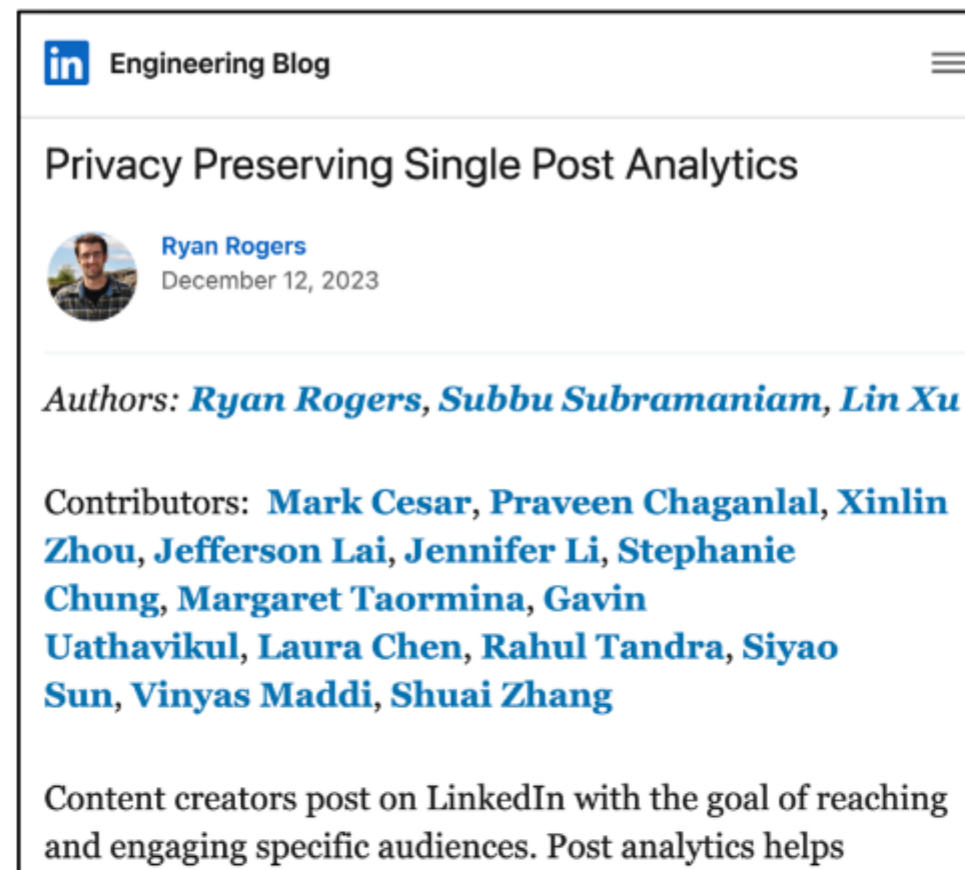
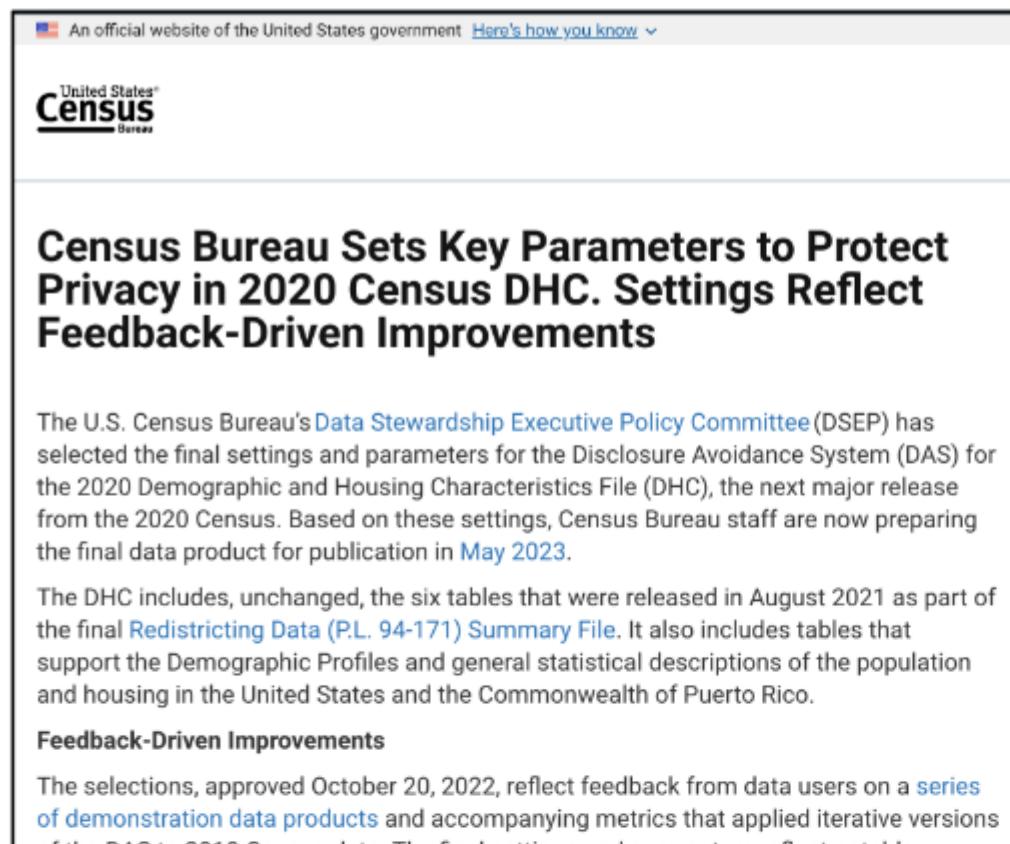
Generalization to select
(query, location)

Differential Privacy Noise
to release statistics



Query	Location	User Behaviors	
Mexican restaurant	DC 20500	Count	631.52
		Clicks	472.24
		Average Time (s)	2.24
		Abandoned	18.02
		districttaco.com	83.24
		dlenadc.com	45.29
		mividamexico.com	21.20
		...	

Many Organizations Balance Privacy and Utility



Source: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/decade/2020/planning-management/process/disclosure-avoidance/newsletters/key-parameters-set-2020-census-dhc.html>;
<https://www.linkedin.com/blog/engineering/trust-and-safety/privacy-preserving-single-post-analytics>; <https://machinelearning.apple.com/research/differential-privacy-aggregate-trends>.

Google Has Experience Balancing Privacy and Utility

Confidential
Privileged and Confidential
SeDS Engineering Working Group

DP for SeDS

created: Jul 20, 2022
last updated: Jul 20, 2022
author: Dennis Kraft, Alex Kulesza, Sergei Vassilvitskii, Rachel Wei, Matthew Jagielski
status: WIP

“Over the years, we have **gained valuable experience** with DP, how it **translates to privacy policy** and how to implement it technically. Moreover, we have developed a **mature set of tools** to deploy DP quickly and efficiently.”

Robust privacy guarantees: DP allows us to make strict and principled statements about privacy. If we enforce a certain DP specification, it is mathematically impossible to extract more information from the data than intended. This is particularly important when sharing data externally (as is the case for SeDS) given that we have limited control over the data after it has been released. Common sources of privacy issues DP is robustly protects against include:

Internal Google Document

Differentially Private Stream Processing at Scale

Bing Zhang¹, Vadym Doroshenko^{1,1}, Peter Kairouz^{2,3}, Thomas Steinke^{1,2}, Abhradeep Thakurta^{1,2}, Ziyin Ma¹, Eidan Cohen¹, Himani Apte¹, Jodi Spacek¹

¹Google

²Google DeepMind

³Google Research

[zhangbing,dvadym,kairouz,steinke,athakurta,ziyinma,eidanch,himaniapte,jodesj}@google.com

ABSTRACT

We design, to the best of our knowledge, the first differentially private (DP) stream aggregation processing system at scale. Our system - *Differentially Private SQL Pipelines (DP-SQLP)* - is built using a streaming framework similar to Spark streaming, and is built on top of the Spanner database and the F1 query engine from Google.

Towards designing DP-SQLP we make both algorithmic and systemic advances, namely, we (i) design a novel (user-level) DP aggregation primitive, and (ii) design a novel DP aggregation primitive.

called Differentially Private SQL Pipelines (DP-SQLP), and make algorithmic advances along the way to cater to the scalability needs of it. DP-SQLP is implemented using a streaming framework similar to Spark streaming [52], and is built on top of the Spanner database [12] and F1 query engine [43] from Google. We also present production applications with two use cases in Section 6. The first is a real world use case that deploys DP-SQLP in Google Shopping to generate streaming page-view counts. The second applies the streaming DP algorithm to Google Trends.

“In terms of **data utility** after adopting DP-SQLP, we were able to retain 59% of the page-view.... to **99.9% for pages with an average view rate of 60 views/hour**. When comparing noised impression counts with the raw counts, the **relative error** is around 11%.... to ensure **user level DP guarantee**, per day. We use $\epsilon = 1$ for”

International License. Visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/> to view a copy of this license. For any use beyond those covered by this license, obtain permission by emailing info@vidbor.org. Copyright is held by the owner/authors. Publication rights licensed to the VLDB Endowment. Proceedings of the VLDB Endowment, Vol. 17, No. 12 ISSN 2150-4097. doi:XXXX.XXXXXX

Proceedings of the VLDB Endowment, Vol. 17, No. 12 ISSN 2150-4097. Copyright 2023 VLDB Endowment. This is the full version of the paper. It has appeared in the most recent event time window, then this potentially leaks information. Naively,

¹Our work is most closely related to [9]. We defer a full comparison to Section 1.2.

Google Research Paper

Opinion 3: Data at Issue Can Be Shared Safely

1

There are well-established **privacy-enhancing techniques** that can be used to protect sensitive information.

2

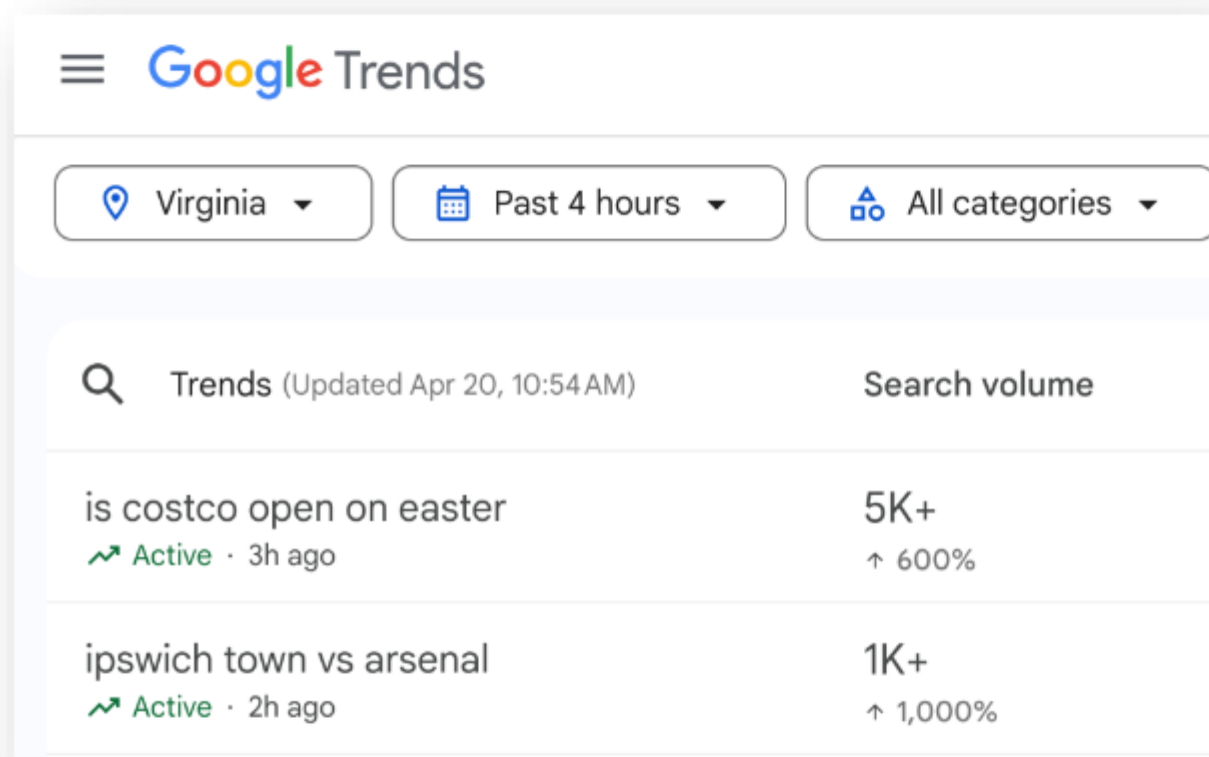
Many organizations, including Google, **safely release sensitive data** by using privacy-enhancing techniques.

3

Google can share the data at issue in a way that **assures privacy** while **providing utility**.

Google Currently Uses PETs to Release Similar Data

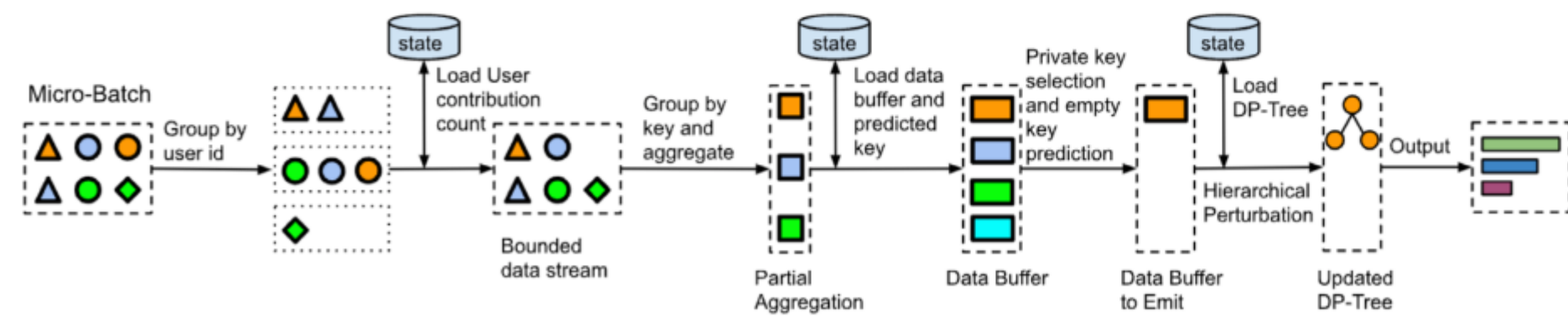
Search Queries



Google Trends

Covid Symptoms, Vaccination Insights, ...

User Interactions



Google Shopping

Advertising Data

Private-Set Intersection, Analytics

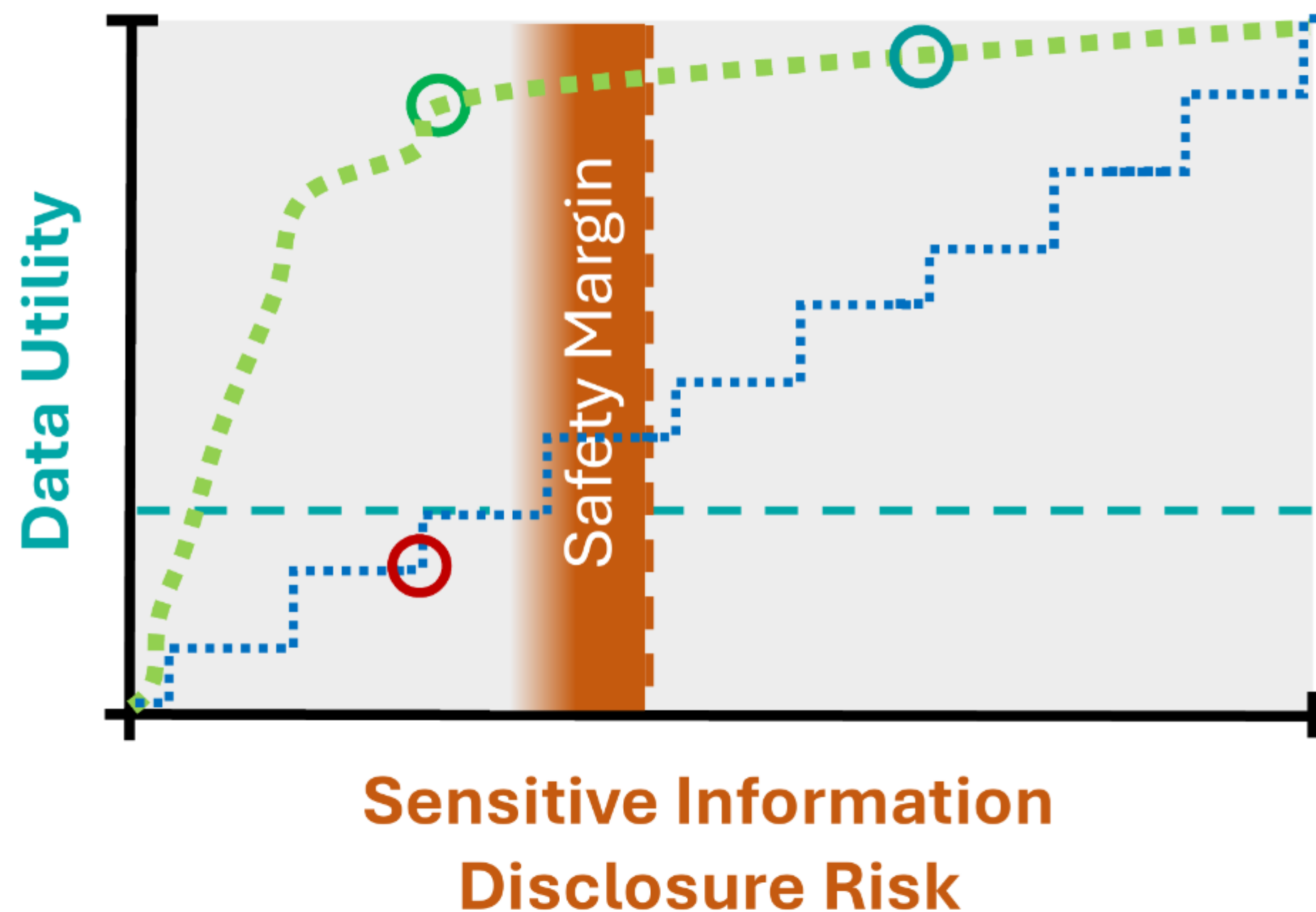
Real-time

Google Trends, Google Shopping

Enormous Scale

Plume (Trillions of records with DP)

Implementing the Data Sharing Remedy



The **Technical Committee** with understanding of **intended uses** and **data content** can assess use of privacy-enhancing techniques and parameters for an appropriate **privacy-utility** tradeoff.

Google's Expert Agrees: Data Can Be Shared Safely

Dr. Culnane's Deposition

Q. Dr. Culnane, you believe that it is possible for Google to share what you call the DOJ search data by applying privacy-enhancing techniques to achieve suitable privacy safeguards, don't you?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you have any opinion as to whether it is technologically feasible to share the DOJ search data as Plaintiffs describe in Plaintiffs' Proposed Final Judgment?

A. The subject of my report is looking at the ability to do that safely, so there is an opinion as -- if it is correctly protected, and in my view, if you protect personal data as opposed to PII, then you can anonymize the dataset. If you successfully do that, then you can protect privacy by doing that, yes.

Conclusion

- 1 There are well-established **privacy-enhancing techniques** that can be used to protect sensitive information.
- 2 Many organizations, including Google, **safely release sensitive data** by using privacy-enhancing techniques.
- 3 Google can share the data at issue in a way that **assures privacy while providing utility**.