

### **Privacy is Your Business**

Whenever privacy is mentioned, I think of “Treasure Box” – a box called “privacy” that everyone has.

The things in the box are very important to us and will not be easily disclosed to others. The definition of privacy is different according to different people. Some people think that all personal data, e.g. name, telephone number and address, are privacy, while some may consider trivial things such as the food they have eaten in breakfast as personal privacy. In fact, all these things are kept in the treasure box of privacy. The things that you hide at the bottom of your heart and do not want to tell others are even kept in the secret compartment of the box. If the box is stolen, the things inside will be disclosed to others. This will cause troubles, or even harm, to us or our friends and relatives.

Can you imagine the situation in which your personal data are misused because of a reckless leakage, or your privacy is totally revealed to others? I think this will be a nightmare to every one. Media reported that a man had taken some sexy photos of his girl friend with his mobile phone, but the phone was lost and it was found that the photos were uploaded to the Internet. How embarrassing it was! Therefore, those privacy matters should be locked in the “box” and kept safely.

“Privacy” refers to the things that we should hide properly, and they should only be disclosed to the persons or organizations that we trust. However, we have entered the “post privacy age”, i.e. people do not hide their personal data anymore, but take the initiative to disclose them to others. In fact, following the economic development and advances of technology, it becomes a trend that young people write their blogs, upload their own videos, visit different chat rooms and discussion forums, and make friends with others on the Internet. Actually, such acts are showing off your treasure box to others. If you are not careful enough, your treasure box will become the target for data stealing. The Internet is a virtual space and all the people you meet are covered in a veil. Disclosing your privacy to a stranger is as dangerous as showing off your treasure box to an infamous robber. If you do not want others knowing the details of your personal life, being alert in the cyber world is very important.

“Do not impose on others what you yourself do not desire”. As we do not want our privacy to be disclosed, we should not be a vicious gossip. No body has the right to publicize a person’s privacy when that person has not taken any precautions. So, I sympathize with those singers and artists sometimes. It seems that their privacy is always exposed to others in detail, and those who take delight in talking about others’ privacy are also strange.

In a world of transparency, it is more and more difficult to hide the box of privacy. Mobile phones, blogs, etc. are not good places to keep our privacy. Moreover, accidents happen anytime. Apart from the Internet, as privacy is part of our daily life, communication between people is not a hundred percent safe and there will surely be a moment when privacy is disclosed. As we cannot stop accidents, we should act like a guard of a castle, safely keeping the treasure box of privacy to prevent accidents from happening.