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The Anonymity on the Internet: pros and cons

The idea of anonymity is often associated with those ones of privacy, freedom, confidentiality, together they are considered to make comfort for many people. However, in the era of rapid information technologies development, these notions are facing constant changes. The anonymity on the Internet has been a highly debated issue so far, and we need to border between its good and bad aspects.

First, we should distinguish between anonymity and privacy as they are often confused. These two terms are similar concepts but they have slight difference. Privacy is when people can know who you are but no one can know what you do. Anonymity is when everybody can see what you do but nobody knows who you are.

Hence, anonymity is valuable for people that need to freely speak their mind being protected. It can be useful in countries where Internet usage is heavily restricted and citizens' activities on the Web are heavily monitored. It allows dissidents in politics, journalists, activists groups etc., to safely communicate with each other, without being persecuted by government.

On the other hand, anonymity is not always used for only good things. Moreover, there are some types of Internet users that are hiding besides the computer screen anonymously for malicious actions. Thus, it makes easier cyberbulling, stalking, Internet trolling (harassing other users on line just for fun). Thereby, it can be a powerful tool for cybercriminals.

According to statistics, more than 40% of criminal activity occurs in hidden networks, called "Messengers" where the confidentiality of actions is guaranteed. Thriving for keeping the idea of anonymity, or being unaware of what's happening there, their creators don't share any information about users. Unlike them, the content of common social networks e.g. Facebook, is looked through by governmental structures to avoid any criminal actions .Mostly project makers dislike being under surveillance as it casts doubt the existence of anonymity itself, raising the question "What is the purpose of anonymity in these cases if it carries a negative contrast?"

While other 60 % of people are using the anonymizing technologies like social networks to express their opinions often contrary to the public as for many of them it is a way to stand on their own.

To sum up, anonymity gives safety in freedom of expressions as well as the right to privacy. On the one hand, the majority of state structures do not benefit from anonymity among citizens mostly for reasons of safety. In future not every technological project beneficial to society, being investigated by governmental structures to avoid criminal context, can be realized as having "wrong content". For reasons of security the idea of anonymity and privacy might be eliminated.