

Memorial of Fallen Soldiers vs. *Post-Mortem* Privacy: Perception Study

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Post-mortem privacy:

Emerging, not universally recognized

Research Questions:

RQ1: What are soldiers' privacy preferences for their digital assets after death, and how do these align or conflict with the needs of families and State officials?

RQ2: What challenges do families and State officials face in accessing fallen soldiers' digital legacies, and how do these affect memorialization?

RQ3: How do soldiers, families, and State officials differ in their views on managing digital legacies, and what common ground or gaps exist?

Analysis:

- Qualitatively: Each group's perception on digital assets of fallen soldiers
- Quantitatively: Statistics to check correlation between:
 - Soldiers' privacy preferences upon death
 - Ambiguity level surrounding soldiers' deaths and the desire to access their digital assets

Fallen soldiers ≠

Other deceased persons

- National and familial memorialization
- Truth-seeking of death circumstances
- Multiple stakeholders

Participants: (1) Soldiers; (2) Family Members; (3) State Officials
(~50-100 on each group)

Example of Questions to Participants:

Soldiers	Family Members	State Officials
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What are your current social media privacy settings?2. In the event of your death in battle, do you agree to give full access to your social media accounts to immediate family members and government officials?3. Explain and rate your concerns about others accessing your digital assets after your death.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What challenges did you face accessing your fallen relatives' social media accounts, including dealing with social media companies, the government, and the courts?2. How crucial was this information for understanding the soldiers' deaths and for memorialization?	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Share anonymized cases where accessing fallen soldiers' private accounts was essential for memorialization or understanding their deaths.2. How often is crucial information found on private accounts?3. What challenges do you face from social media companies, courts, and family members?

Expected Outcome:

- Soldiers: Oppose free access; prefer to designate specific individuals in advance.
- Families: Respect privacy, but may seek access for memorialization or truth-seeking.
- State officials: Favor legislative or bureaucratic regulation.