

European ruling

- 1 Sir, The European Court of Justice ruling on the "right to be forgotten" appears fraught with difficulties and will be very difficult to implement.
 - 2 Web technology continues to innovate and change. While some companies such as Google do host data, the majority of search engine results point users to other servers – many of which will not reside in the EU, which means it will be extremely difficult to track down who owns the data-hosting service.
 - 3 Furthermore, some services rely on cumulative data in areas such as education and healthcare, or will these records be exempted from the right to be forgotten?
 - 4 While the Institution of Engineering and Technology recognises the rights of owners' data to be forgotten where legally permissible, in practice such a process could prove costly, complex and bound up with risks that may end in lengthy legal disputes.
 - 5 Furthermore, it signals the end of a "worldwide" web when different approaches are being taken to privacy in North America and Europe.
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