Title: "Transparency and Accountability in User Data Handling by Online Platforms: A Cross-Platform Analysis"

Research Summary: This Ph.D. research project aims to investigate and compare the data sharing practices of various online platforms, including social media networks, e-commerce sites, and other digital services. The goal is to analyze data sharing practices and provide recommendations for improving transparency and safeguarding user privacy across these platforms.

Research Objectives:

Multi-Platform Data Collection: Collect and analyze data on data sharing practices across a range of online platforms, including but not limited to social media networks, e-commerce platforms, and digital service providers.

Transparency Assessment: Evaluate the transparency of privacy policies, terms of service, and user consent processes across different platforms.

User Data Control Mechanisms: Assess the effectiveness of user controls and privacy settings on these platforms for users to manage their data sharing preferences.

Legal and Regulatory Compliance: Examine the extent to which these platforms comply with relevant government regulations and the impact of these regulations on data handling practices.

Privacy Recommendations: Provide overarching recommendations for improving transparency, user control, and data protection practices across online platforms.

User Awareness and Empowerment: Develop educational materials or tools that can be applied universally to help users understand and manage their data sharing on various online platforms.

Research Significance: This research addresses the broader issue of data privacy and transparency on the internet, with the potential to influence best

practices, policies, and user experiences across a wide range of digital services.

Methodology: The research may involve data scraping, analysis of privacy policies and terms of service, surveys, legal analysis, and collaboration with legal experts and privacy advocates.

Resources: Access to data scraping tools, legal experts, ethical oversight, and collaboration with relevant stakeholders or industry groups may be necessary to conduct this research.