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Business Ethics

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Summary of *Nothing to Hide* by Daniel J. Solove

In the essay *Nothing to Hide* by Daniel J. Solove, he mainly talks about the challenges of a belief that many people have no reason to worry about their privacy being invaded and those who have “nothing to hide”. He also states in the essay that privacy is not specifically about hiding things, it’s about other people’s interests and values of your life being blocked off. However, some people disagree with the nothing-to-hide argument. For example, in the essay Solove explains that the government in Britain installed public-surveillance cameras around many cities and towns to ensure people have nothing to hide. The government states, “If you’ve got nothing to hide, you’ve got nothing to fear.” Many people disagree with that, in many interviews and discussions about the nothing-to-hide argument they asked many questions to Solove that was very interesting. One of the responses to the question “So do you have curtains?” Solove responded “I don’t have anything to hide. But I don’t have anything I feel like showing you, either.” That is another thing that is interesting about the nothing-to-hide argument, not everything has to be shown or public for everyone to know or see. It is important to respect people’s privacy because some people could be stalkers, have obsessions, or many things like that. Which I feel is not really talked about in this essay.

In conclusion, Solove has a balanced approach in the nothing-to-hide argument. He recognizes the benefits of information sharing and also the importance of protecting each individual's privacy with government and lawful precautions. Also, everyone's privacy should be held legally, with consent, and many more things that were talked about in the essay so that people don't feel unsafe or feel their lives are too transparent to the ones they feel don't need to know about their personal lives.