

# Mozilla WebThings, Mozilla VR and Google Surveillance

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## [Empowering User Privacy and Decentralizing IoT with Mozilla WebThings](#) [3]

Smart home devices can make busy lives a little easier, but they also require you to give up control of your usage data to companies for the devices to function. In a recent article from the New York Times' Privacy Project about protecting privacy online, the author recommended people to not buy Internet of Things (IoT) devices unless they're willing to give up a little privacy for whatever convenience they provide.

This is sound advice since smart home companies can not only know if you're at home when you say you are, they'll soon be able to listen for your sniffles through their always-listening microphones and recommend sponsored cold medicine from affiliated vendors. Moreover, by both requiring that users' data go through their servers and by limiting interoperability between platforms, leading smart home companies are chipping away at people's ability to make real, nuanced technology choices as consumers.

At Mozilla, we believe that you should have control over your devices and the data that smart home devices create about you. You should own your data, you should have control over how it's shared with others, and you should be able to contest when a data profile about you is inaccurate.



## [Mozilla VR Blog: Making ethical decisions for the immersive web](#) [4]

One of the promises of immersive technologies is real time communication unrestrained by geography. This is as transformative as the internet, radio, television, and telephones?each represents a pivot in mass communications that provides new opportunities for information dissemination and creating connections between people. This raises the question, ?what?s the immersive future we want??

We want to be able to connect without traveling. Indulge our curiosity and creativity beyond our physical limitations. Revolutionize the way we visualize and share our ideas and dreams. Enrich everyday situations. Improve access to limited resources like healthcare and education.

- [Google finds ways to cover your mobile in even more advertising](#) [5]

This week's Google Marketing Live event produced several new options to make Android and iOS just that little bit more ad-heavy. For 'little', read 'understatement'.

They include 'gallery ads' which will allow you to swipe through images, which will become part of the search process on mobile. They'll also form part of the 'Discover' option in the Google Assistant screen and on Google's mobile home page.

[Google Moz/FF](#)

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**Source URL:** <http://www.tuxmachines.org/node/123968>

**Links:**

[1] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/120>

[2] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/118>

[3] <https://hacks.mozilla.org/2019/05/empowering-user-privacy-and-decentralizing-iot-with-mozilla-webthings/>

[4] <https://blog.mozvr.com/making-ethical-decisions/>

[5] <https://www.theinquirer.net/inquirer/news/3075838/google-finds-ways-to-cover-your-mobile-in-even-more-advertising>