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Altri autori (Persone)	Domingo-FerrerJosep MagkosEmmanouil
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Sommario/riassunto	Privacy in statistical databases is a discipline whose purpose is to provide so- tionstothe tensionbetweenthe social,political, economicandcorporatedemand for accurate information, and the legal

and ethical obligation to protect the privacy of the various parties involved. Those parties are the respondents (the individuals and enterprises to which the database records refer), the data owners (those organizations spending money in data collection) and the users (the ones querying the database or the search engine, who would like their queries to stay confidential). Beyond law and ethics, there are also practical reasons for data-collecting agencies and corporations to invest in respondent privacy: if individual respondents feel their privacy guaranteed, they are likely to provide more accurate responses. Data owner privacy is primarily motivated by practical considerations: if an enterprise collects data at its own expense, it may wish to minimize leakage of those data to other enterprises (even to those with whom joint data exploitation is planned). Finally, user privacy results in increased user satisfaction, even if it may curtail the ability of the database owner to profile users.

There are at least two traditions in statistical database privacy, both of which started in the 1970s: the first one stems from official statistics, where the discipline is also known as statistical disclosure control (SDC), and the second one originates from computer science and database technology. In official statistics, the basic concern is respondent privacy. In computer science, the initial motivation was also respondent privacy but, from 2000 onwards, growing attention has been devoted to owner privacy (privacy-preserving data mining) and user privacy (private information retrieval).
