

The Sovereign Individual: The Writ of *Habeas Data* and the Right to Informational Privacy

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The writ of *habeas data* has changed the legal landscape by introducing and bringing to the forefront a special kind of right to privacy: the right to informational privacy. The Authors trace the development of the right to privacy as an independent legal right. This right has emerged, not only in the Philippine jurisdiction but also in most jurisdictions, as a constitutional right.

In the Section entitled, “Freeing Neo from the Matrix,” the Authors examine the context of computers, data storage, and information accumulation within which the writ is utilized. The right to informational privacy is also discussed.

One thing is clear, though — the writ has defrosted Philippine privacy jurisprudence and has renewed interest in the right to privacy and the right to informational privacy.