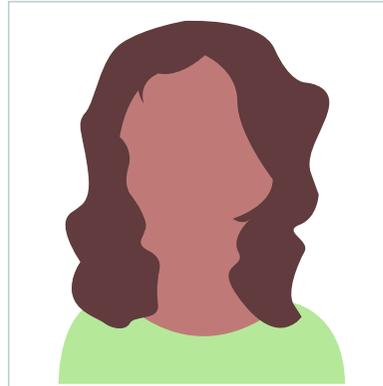


# WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR DATA AFTER YOUR DEATH?

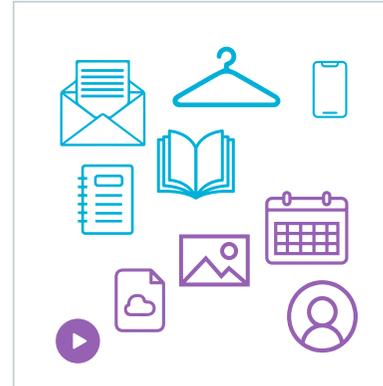
The digital world holds all kinds of information about you, from accounts you once created to photos you kept in an album on your smartphone.

What happens with this data after you pass away? This remains unclear. The devices will go to your next of kin, but of many accounts like with Google, Microsoft or Apple, you are just the user and not the owner. No one can access these after your death.

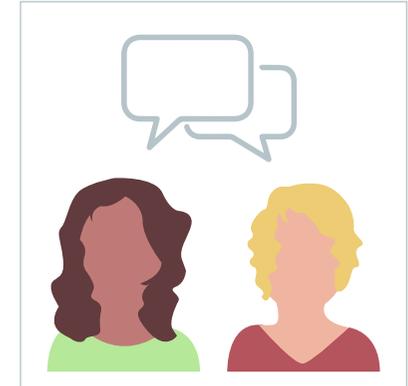
In this brAInfood, Maud talks about how you can ensure that your next of kin can access your data more easily, if you would like that of course.



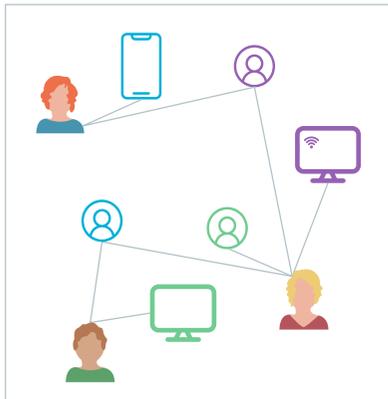
Hello, I am Maud! Last summer, I was diagnosed with lung cancer. This made me think about what happens when I'm not around anymore.



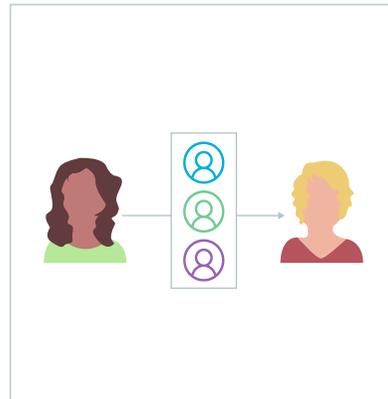
A friend recently told me that in addition to all my physical objects, there is also a lot of data about me in the cloud. I hadn't thought about this.



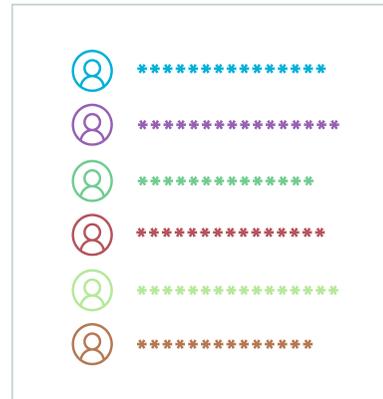
I talked to my wife about the digital data she would be interested in, and what information I would prefer to keep to myself after my death.



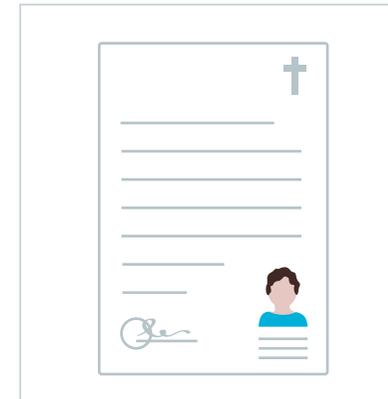
I mapped my devices and accounts and determined who in my environment can have (partial) access to these. I update this regularly.



For some platforms (Google, Facebook, ...), I arranged for my wife to be able to manage my account after my death. This did not work for all my accounts.



To allow my next of kin to manage my user accounts easily, I made a list of all my accounts and their respective passwords.



I appointed a digital intermediary in my will who will manage the access to my digital information and equipment.

Maud thinks timely about what should happen to her digital legacy when she will no longer be there. Talking about this subject with your next of kin is difficult, but it is important to take action early so your loved ones can access your information.



Knowledge Centre Data & Society (2023). What happens to your data after your death? brAInfood of the Knowledge Centre Data & Society, Brussels: Knowledge Centre Data & Society.

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