

DIGITAL ESTATE

Who wants to live forever? Our data stays online even when we ourselves have passed away. How can we manage our digital estate?

#DABEI-Geschichten – an initiative by Deutsche Telekom AG
Moderation documents for a workshop (approx. 90 minutes)



LIFE IS FOR SHARING.

PUBLICATION DETAILS

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FURTHER INFORMATION

<https://dabei-geschichten.telekom.com/en/topics/digital-estate/>

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REQUIRED MATERIALS

Tablets, blackboard, flipchart, cards, pen and paper for the participants

NOTES FOR MULTIPLIERS

In the course of this workshop, participants will explore the topic of “Digital Estates”. In a first step, the basics of “Digital Estates” will be discussed: What is a “Digital Estate”? Which data do people leave behind? Participants will then receive tips and assistance on how to manage their own digital estate.

Only 18% of Germans have their digital estate sorted. This means that the relatives of the deceased have to deal with the data that is left behind. If however, people deal with their digital estate before they pass away, they can save their relatives a lot of grief and stress.

The core statements of the workshop are therefore:

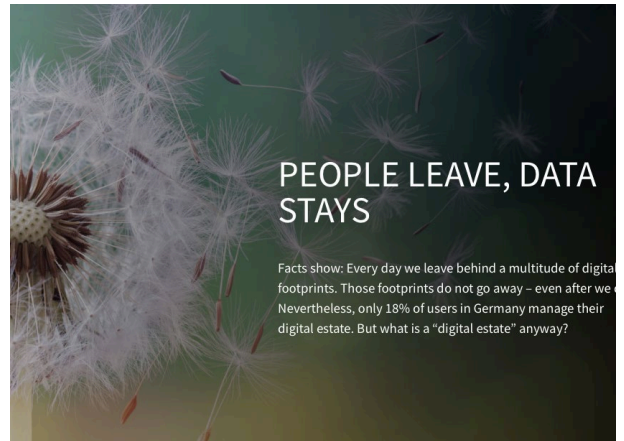
1. A digital estate encompasses more than one might think at first glance. Photos and purchased music are also included.
2. On the Internet, there are a multitude of offers that can help you with your digital estate.
3. Digitalization is changing people's perspective on death. With the help of the digital estate (e.g. photos), relatives can commemorate the deceased in a new way.
4. An effective method of regulating a digital estate is a “legacy contact”. This is a trusted person who has access to one's digital estate or parts of it in the event that the its owner passes away.

PHASE 1: PEOPLE LEAVE, DATA STAYS

5 MIN.

Procedure

“Welcome to our workshop on “Your Digital Estate”. Who wants to live forever? Our data makes us immortal on the Internet. But what happens to our data when we die? And what should you do to manage things while you are alive? You can find the answers to these questions in the following workshop.”



Task

“What do you think of when you hear the terms ‘estate’ or ‘heir’? Present your ideas to the group.”

Possible solution

“I think of my will and the arrangements I made regarding my property, such as jewelry, cars or money etc.”

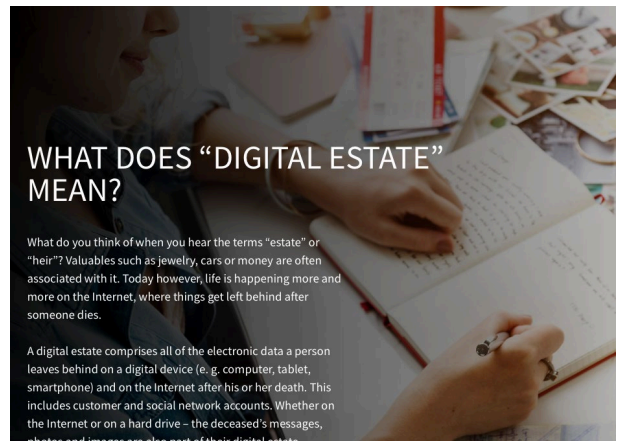
Your Notes

PHASE 2: WHAT DOES “DIGITAL ESTATE” MEAN?

10 MIN.

Procedure

“Every day we leave behind a multitude of digital footprints. Those footprints do not go away - even after we die. Nevertheless, only 18% of users in Germany manage their digital estate. But what exactly is a ‘digital estate’ anyway?”



Task

“Have you ever heard the term ‘digital estate’? Compare your understanding with the one in the module.”

Possible solution

“I knew it was about electronic data, but I didn't know that included photos and messages.”

Your Notes

PHASE 3: DESKTOP

15 MIN.

Procedure

The moderator switches to the picture of a desktop. If something is said that is explained in the graphic, the moderator moves the mouse to the appropriate position and reads the explanatory text. He/she should do the same even if not all picture elements are addressed. "We are looking at a desk. But it is not just any desk."



Task

"It shows us what digital data remains after someone dies. What data can you discover?"

Possible solution

„Accounts, photos and documents that were saved, e-mails and chats live on even after we have passed away.“

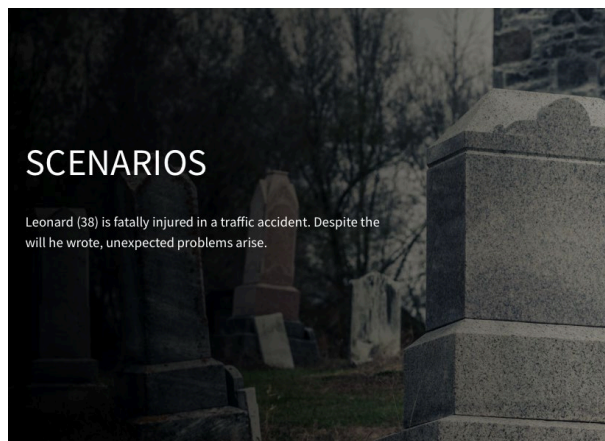
Your Notes

PHASE 4: SCENARIOS

15 MIN.

Procedure

"Leonard (38) is fatally injured in a traffic accident. Despite the will he wrote, unexpected problems arise. You can see two of these problems on the following pages."



Task

"Look at the scenarios and think about them: how could a digital estate have helped the family after Leonard's death?"

Possible solution

"The bereaved often have to pay bills for streaming services or similar things after a family member passes away."

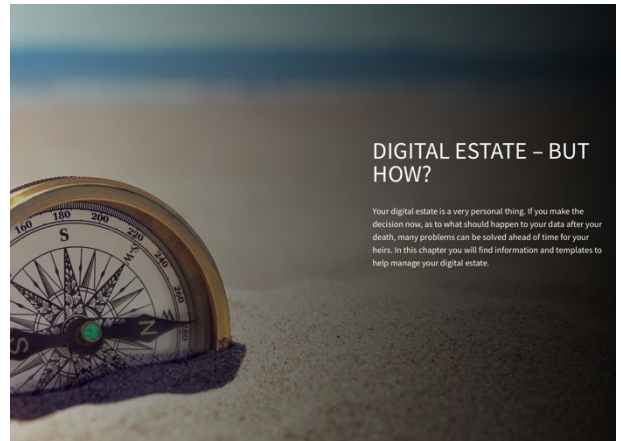
Your Notes

PHASE 5: DIGITAL ESTATE – BUT HOW?

15 MIN.

Procedure

“We know, no one likes to think about dying: But think about tomorrow today and settle your digital estate in time. If you make the decision now, as to what should happen to your data after your death, many problems are solved ahead of time for your heirs.”



Task

“Create a mind map: Which elements of your digital estate would you like to think of in the future?”

Possible solution

“I have already created a list of passwords and usernames, but I'd like to keep it in my will.”

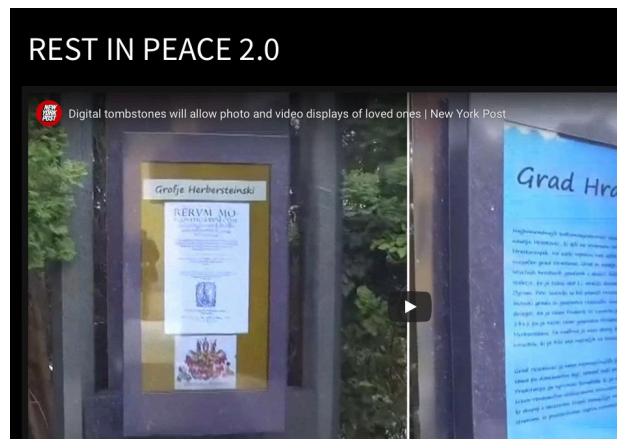
Your Notes

PHASE 6: DIGITAL ESTATE – THEN WHAT?

10 MIN.

Procedure

“People have used places such as cemeteries to remember their deceased loved ones for centuries. However, the Internet offers other ways of remembering the deceased such as for example, online condolence books or digital gravestones.”



Task

“Watch the video and take a stance: do you think digital gravestones make sense? Why? Why not?”

Possible solution

“I think it's a good idea, because it allows you to understand the life of a deceased person.”, “I think the grave is a bit macabre.”

Your Notes

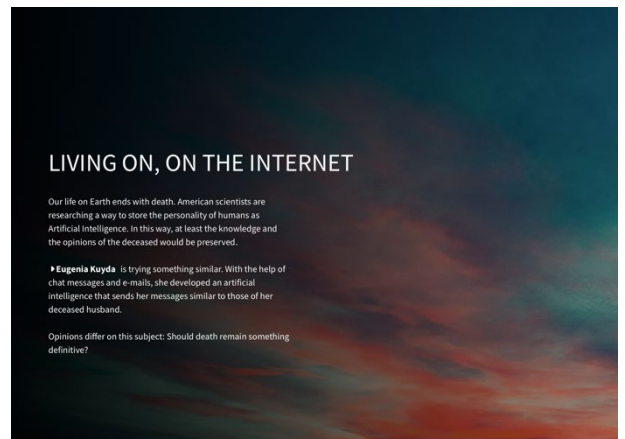
PHASE 7: LIVING ON, ON THE INTERNET

15 MIN.

Procedure

“Death is the end of life on earth. However, American scientists are researching a way to store the personality of humans as artificial intelligence. In this way, at least the knowledge and the opinions of the deceased would be preserved.

Eugenia Kuyda is trying something similar. Opinions differ on this subject: Should death remain something definitive?”



Task

“Take a look at Kuyda’s website. What do you think about it?”

Possible solution

“I find the idea very useful for research purposes.”,
“A person's death should be permanent.”

Your Notes

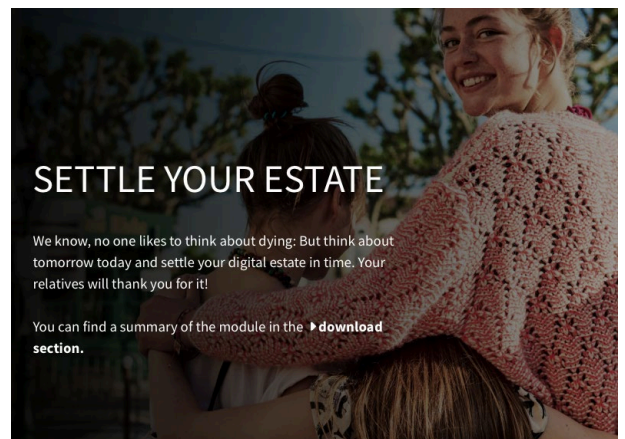
PHASE 8: SETTLE YOUR ESTATE

5 MIN.

Procedure

“Now you know that your data is not simply deleted after you die. And you also know what you can do if you want to settle your digital estate beforehand.”

The moderator asks the participants to position themselves on the subject of digital estates. Ask some of the following questions.



Task

“What have you learned? What was new for you? What will you tell your family and friends about what you have learned? What would you like to try out?”

Possible solution

“I am going to choose a trustworthy person to settle my digital estate when I am gone.”

Your Notes



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