

Education Google Apps Scripts Privacy Policy

This site, <https://bensresearch.com>, links to four Google Apps Scripts intended for use in the education field: ‘Grade Nudge,’ ‘Create Random Assignments,’ ‘Create Group Projects,’ and ‘Remove Permissions.’ All four programs are provided free of charge, contain no advertising and are written by me (Ben O. Smith) as a service to the education community. This software is not monetized and never will be monetized.

As all four programs are Google Apps Scripts, they are hosted by Google. Recently, Google has requested that Apps Script developers post a privacy policy on their website. This is that policy. The policy is very simple. None of the four programs send any private information about individual users back to the developer (me). Further, I never will collect such information.

The four Apps in question work in a similar way. Each interacts with the user’s (teacher’s) Google Drive environment to create E-Mails or documents for the user’s students. In the case of Grade Nudge, the application accesses documents in the user’s Google Drive to send grade information to students (usually over E-Mail). Create Random Assignments creates and shares Google Documents (the assignments) with the students specified by the user. These students might be notified by E-Mail of these shared assignments depending on the settings specified by the user. Similarly, Create Group Projects creates folders and files for groups of students in the user’s Google Drive. As these folders are shared with the students, the students might be notified of the new files over e-mail. Finally, Remove Permissions modifies the permissions of files in the user’s Google Drive environment. While this script doesn’t directly send E-Mail messages, Google might notify students of a change in permissions.

As described above, the four Apps only send E-Mails initiated by the user. Further, no information is collected about the user’s Google Drive by the Apps Scripts. Moreover, while the <https://bensresearch.com> website does use Google Analytics to collect visitor information, Analytics is not used in any of the scripts. The developer does have some aggregated usage information from the Google Chrome Web Store. Google provides the developer the aggregated number of users, installations, uninstalls, and impressions. None of this information is provided at the user level. Google might be collecting usage information, but this would be governed by their own privacy policy.

In short, I’m not collecting any information within any of the Google Apps Scripts. I do have some aggregate information on usage provided by Google. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at bosmith@unomaha.edu.