

Christopher Lewin

Ayns Mee Boaldyn ren yn Whaiyl Cairys Oarpagh reaghey cooish eddyr Google as Spaainagh enmyssit Mario Costeja González. Va González shirrey geddyn rey rish kianglaghyn ayns eirytyssyn yn ghreie-ronsee ta leeideil dys coontey ayns pabyrnaight mychione lhiastynys v'eh ayn ny smoo na jeih bleeaney er dy henney. Va'n Spaainagh arganey dy haghyn yn chooish shoh traa liauyr er dy henney as dy vel eh er lhasaghey e vea er-dyn traa shen, as dy vel eh jannoo assee da dy vod sleih cur stiagh yn ennym echey ayns Google as shoh yn chield red hee ad mychione echey.

Va Google gra nagh vel adsyn crearey eirytyssyn-ronsee agh jeeaghyn da'n theihll ny ta ayn as dy vel eh aggairagh dy gholley magh ny follaghey reddyn er yn eddyr-voggyl, er-lheh red ta firrinagh as t'er jeet rish ayns ny naightyn. Agh ren y Whaiyl cordail rish González as ad gra dy row 'cairys dy ve jarrodit' ec sleih as dy negin da Google follaghey eirytyssyn-ronsee ayns lheid ny cooishyn tra ta sleih shirrey orroo jannoo shen. Ta shoh bentyn da dy chooilley vanglane jeh Google ayns yn Unnaney Oarpagh, goaill stiagh www.google.co.uk.

Cha vel Google feer vaynrey mychione shoh agh t'ad er n'ghoail toshiaght dy eiyrt da'n reaghey. T'ad er n'gheddyn ny smoo na jeih as daeed thousane yeearee hannah dy ollaghey eirytyssyn-ronsee. Er yn nah laa jeh'n vee shoh hooar yn BBC as yn *Guardian* post-l voish Google dy insh daue dy row ad follaghey paart jeh ny skeealyn oc. Ren fir-naight ayns y daa heshaght çhelleeragh cur magh skeealyn mychione y chooish lesh kianglaghyn dys ny skeealyn follit.

Cha vel mee hene shicky cre ta mee smooinghyn mychione shoh. Er y derrey heu ta mee erreeishagh da sleih ta shirrey scapail voish red ommijagh hug ad rish ymmodde bleeantyn er-dy-henney, my t'ad er lhasaghey nyn mea as nagh vel y chooish jeh monney scansh nish; lhisagh caa ve ec sleih dy ghoail arrys, dy ghoail rish kerraghey lowal son nyn loght, as lurg shen dy chur cooyl rish y chooish as leeideil nyn mea ayns shee, red ta doillee dy yannoo tra ta recortys aashagh dy gheddyn er yn eddyr-voggyl son dy bragh. Agh er y çheu elley she oyr imnea eh dy vod reddyn firrinagh ve follit voish y theay cha aashagh, as dy vod quaiyl Oarpagh jannoo reaghey ta bentyn da dy chooilley heer ayns yn EU, ga dy vel caghlaaghyn credjue bentyn da preevaadjaghys ayns caghlaaghyn çheer. As ansherbee cha jean yn polasee gobbragh son dy vel eh feer aashagh dy yannoo ymmyd jeh banglane jeh Google ta çheu mooie jeh pooar y Whaiyl, lheid as yn Google Americanagh (www.google.com) as dy jarroo yn Google Manninagh (www.google.co.im), ta foast soilaghey ny duillagyn follit. Red elley: son shickyrys ta foddey smoo dy leih as fys oc er cooish González nish na va roish my jagh eh dys y Whaiyl!

In May the European Court of Justice ruled on a case between Google and a Spanish man named Mario Costeja González, who wished search engine results to be deleted which link to newspaper reports about debts he owed more than ten years ago. The Spaniard argued that this matter was a long time ago and that he has sorted out his life since then, and that it is damaging to him that the debt story is the first thing people find if they type his name into Google.

Google argued that it does not filter search results but just shows what is out there, and that it is wrong to censor or hide things on the internet, especially something that is true and in the public record. But the court agreed with González, deciding that people have a 'right to be forgotten' and that Google must hide search results when people ask them to do so. This applies to every branch of Google in the EU, including www.google.co.uk.

Google is not best pleased about this but they have begun to comply with the ruling. They have already received more than 50,000 requests to hide search results. On 2 July the BBC and the *Guardian* received emails from Google informing them that they had hidden some of their articles. Journalists in both media outlets immediately wrote articles highlighting this with links to the hidden stories.

I am not sure what I think about this. On the one hand I am inclined to be sympathetic to people who wish to escape from something stupid they did years ago, if they have turned over a new leaf and the matter is of little importance now; people should have a chance to repent, to accept any appropriate punishment, and after that to put the matter behind them and get on with their life in peace, something which is difficult to do when an easily found record exists online forever. But on the other hand it is perhaps a cause for concern that the truth can be hidden from the public so easily, and that a European court can make a decision which applies to every country in the EU, though attitudes to privacy vary greatly between countries. And in any case the policy seems unworkable as it is very easy to use a version of Google which is outside the Court's jurisdiction, such as the American Google (www.google.com) and indeed the Manx version (www.google.co.im), which still show the hidden pages. What is more, surely far more people know about González now because of the case he brought than before!