

# Privacy Policy and What to Expect from us

## Who is “Us”?

Hello and thank you for your interest in SamuelRikard.com.

In the event you're here by mistake, you've reached the official website for Samuel Rikard, author, entertainer, artist, and a bunch of other titles (some of which aren't very friendly).

I hope you'll take a few minutes to look around and see what I have to offer.

On this site you'll find a few videos, blog posts, audio files, and pictures, as well as a list of my published works.

I'm always looking for new and enjoyable content to add and I'm happy to receive any suggestion you may have.

## Personal data – Why and What We Collect.

In the following sections you'll find the answers to this question. Most of it is technical mumbo jumbo that I don't understand, nor do I actively enforce. In fact, if I could get out of unintentionally collecting most of it, I would. Unfortunately, we live in the digital age. This type of 'digital footprint' as it's so commonly called is only going to become more commonplace.

The only information I actively and purposely collect is your first name and email address, and only when you sign up for my newsletter. I collect these details simply because I enjoy the ability to communicate with my fans and readers. Sites like Amazon don't provide me with contact information for anyone who purchases my word. Social Media sites own and control all contacts and information posted on them. By collecting emails, this allows me to own my future and remain in contact with friends and fans in the unlikely event the aforementioned markets go away.

Any emails or names collected stay with me and my newsletter service. The gathered information is neither sold nor redistributed.

## Comments

There are a number of places where visitors can comment on my page, be it a blog post, book review, or some other detail where your words are available for all to see.

You should know these comments are recorded and displayed publicly on this site. I do not transfer them to any other location, nor do I save them privately.

In addition to the visitor name and comment, your IP address and browser are automatically collected by someone much smarter than I in an attempt to help spam detection and prevention.

An anonymized string created from your email address (also called a hash) may be provided to the Gravatar service to see if you are using it. The Gravatar service privacy policy is available here: <https://automattic.com/privacy/>. After approval of your comment, your profile picture is visible to the public in the context of your comment.

## **Media**

If you upload images or video to my website, you should avoid uploading anything with embedded location data (EXIF GPS) included. People with more technical knowledge than I have the ability download and extract this data from unprotected files.

## **Contact forms**

You'll find two distinct types of contact forms on this site. One simply allows you to email me. It's no different than sending any other email. I'll receive your message, along with the name and email address provided, just like I would with any other email I receive. If requested, I'll respond to said email in due form. It goes without saying, this information is saved, though I don't typically turn it into a contact or add it to any other list, and I guarantee that I do not redistribute it anywhere else.

The other is my newsletter signup form. As stated previously, I collect and save these emails for business use only. The information is not sold or transferred to any third party. It should be noted that in addition to my newsletter service (currently hosted by MailChimp), I store these names and emails privately as well. I do not sell or redistribute any of your personal information to any third party or use it for any purpose other than my own. My newsletter is intended to provide communication between myself and the fans of my work.

## **Cookies (Not the type you eat)**

If you leave a comment on my site you may opt-in to saving your name, email address and website in cookies. These are for your convenience, keeping you from having to fill in the details again later. These cookies are valid for one year from the date of creation.

If you edit or publish an article, an additional cookie will be saved in your browser. This cookie includes no personal data and simply indicates the post ID of the article you just edited. It expires after 1 day.

I do not currently require site visitors to register a login, which eliminates a fair amount of additional cookie talk. If this changes in the future, I'll be sure to update this section.

## **Embedded content from other websites**

Articles on this site may include embedded content (e.g. videos, images, articles, etc.).

Embedded content from other websites behaves in the exact same way as if the visitor has visited the other website.

These websites may collect data about you, use cookies, embed additional third-party tracking, and monitor your interaction with that embedded content, including tracking your interaction with the embedded content if you have an account and are logged in to that website.

I am personally against this and do not approve it. I apologize if you feel this is a violation of your rights. Unfortunately, I cannot do anything about it. It happens on every website and page in our modern internet age.

## **Analytics**

One of the more important bits of information any website owner needs to know is the who, what, when, where, and why.

Who is visiting the site? Age, gender, ethnicity, religion, etc.

What are they doing? Pictures, comments, blogs, video.

When did they visit? Time, date, length of stay.

Where did they come from (and where they're going)?

Why, or more aptly, how did they interact?

By obtaining this information, a website owner can tailor their site to reflect the desires of their audience. This is done through the use of analytics.

### **Where collected data goes.**

Any data collected or received is for the purpose of business only. This site contains an analytic service, controlled by Google, for the tracking and interaction of all visitors. This information is used solely for the purpose of providing the best experience to you and is not intentionally saved or stored in any other regard.

No other third party sites are in use. I believe in privacy and I want the same for my visitors.

### **How long is data stored?**

If you leave a comment, both it and its metadata are retained indefinitely. This is done to recognize and approve any follow-up comments automatically instead of holding them in a moderation queue.

If you've taken the time to sign up for my newsletter, all the data provided is stored on my newsletter service hosting site (currently MailChimp), as well as backed up privately. This information, collected both digitally and manually, is stored indefinitely on my private backup. However, it should be noted that these collected contacts are updated frequently and legally, you are allowed to unsubscribe from my newsletter at any time without consideration. This removes your name and email address from my list. Upon which, when I update the backup, it will no longer be stored.

I don't require a site login, but if I did, you can expect the following:

For users that register on my website (if any), we store the personal information you provide in your user profile. Once registered, you have the ability to view, edit, or delete your personal information at any time (with the exception that you cannot change your username). As the site owner, I also have the ability to view this information, but I cannot edit or delete it. In the event registration becomes mandatory, this information, if provided will not be saved privately or relocated to any other location.

## **Your data rights.**

If you have an account on this site, or have left comments, you can request to receive an exported file of the personal data pertaining to you, including any data you have provided to us. You can also request that we erase any personal data we hold about you. This does not include any data we are obliged to keep for administrative, legal, or security purposes.

As I do not currently require registration for use of my site, much of this information does not apply. However, if such information is collected, either intentionally or not, and a request for exportation or deletion is made, an effort to comply will be made.

## **Where your data goes.**

I take my privacy very seriously and attempt to do the same for my visitors. It is for that reason that no data or information will ever be sold or purposely redistributed for financial gain.

There are, however, a few areas worth mentioning.

Any visitor comment may be checked through an automated spam detection service.

Contact form emails are sent directly to my email account for review. These are typically deleted once the contained information is no longer relevant.

Newsletter Signups are automatically added to my signup list on MailChimp.

Analytic data is sent to Google where I can review site traffic and activity.

Any other data collection is not controlled by me and I have no control over where it goes.

## **What if I have questions?**

You're welcome to contact me through my contact form or email me directly at [sam.rikard@samuelrikard.com](mailto:sam.rikard@samuelrikard.com).

Additionally, you may contact me by phone at (417)986-1920.