



## **One Step Closer to A Right to be Forgotten in Hong Kong?**

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In May 2014, the European Court of Justice delivered a landmark decision affirming the “Right to be Forgotten.” The ruling states, according to the European Commission, “that individuals have the rights - under certain conditions - to ask search engines to remove links with personal information about them.”

Since the decision, Google has received requests to remove over 900,000 links from its European search results. As of May 2015, they have processed 250,000 links and have approved 40% of the requests.

The implications of this judgment are vast and continue to evolve. Some from the Internet establishment claim that the “Right to be Forgotten” is equivalent to “censoring history” with vast implications for “freedom of speech”, while others claim this is an important victory for the right to privacy in the digital age, and protecting individuals against information that is “inaccurate, inadequate, irrelevant, or excessive.”

Will the “Right to be Forgotten” be extended to Hong Kong? The paper aims to consider this question through the lens of two decisions – *Yeung Sau Shing Albert v Google* and an Administrative Appeals Board decision.