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Proof of Attribution of Property Interests in Personal Information in Constitutional Perspective

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Abstract

Personal information, as a component of big data, contains enormous economic value, and the storage, circulation and sharing of personal information in accordance with the law is also an inevitable requirement of the digital society. The basic condition for giving full play to the economic value of personal information is to clarify the attribution of the property rights and interests of personal information and to protect the legitimate interests of the subject of the rights. The attribution of property rights and interests in personal information should be defined on the basis of reasonable classification of personal information, taking into account the requirements of the socialist system, the goal of common prosperity, the system of distribution according to work and the promotion of economic development in the constitutional norms.

Keywords: constitutional property rights, personal information, property rights and interests, digital society

1. Introduction

In the information age, personal life has been widely and deeply affected by information technology, and the data generated in the process of real-time interaction between the real world and the Internet platform of personal daily life and work has been produced and recorded by electronic products represented by personal computers and smart phones at a very fast speed, forming a huge personal information dataset. The Opinions of the State Council on Constructing a More Perfect Institutional Mechanism for the Market-based Allocation of Factors' was officially released in March 2020. For the first time, the Central Committee listed data as a new type of major production factor in this document and proposed to build a more perfect institutional mechanism to regulate the market-based allocation of data factors. Since the release of the Opinions, personal information and data have become more active in economic activities as important factors of production. Nowadays, personal information has become a key production factor and an important property of citizens, but the ownership of the economic value carried by personal information is not yet clear. According to economic principles, defining the property rights of traded products and services is a prerequisite for their entry into the market. This lack of clarity impedes the legal protection of personal information and is not conducive to its playing a and greater role in economic social development.



2. Method

At present, the legal protection of the property rights and interests carried by personal information is slightly insufficient, and scholars' discussion mainly focuses on the tort liability of personality right in the field of civil law, the anti-monopoly regulation of information enterprises in the field of economic law, and the protection of citizens' human dignity in the field of constitutional law, etc., and there are few research results to explore the property rights and interests of the property rights and interests above personal information from the perspective of the constitutional right to property, so as to realise the comprehensive protection of the property rights and interests enjoyed by different subjects. There are few research results that discuss the attribution of property rights and interests on personal information from the perspective of constitutional property rights, so as to achieve comprehensive protection of property rights and interests enjoyed by different subjects. The protection of citizens and other organisations of personal information on the legitimate property rights and interests of citizens and other organisations of personal information is an important embodiment of the constitutional protection of the human dignity of citizens and citizens of lawful private property, and in the constitutional perspective of the analysis to determine the property rights and interests of personal information property rights and interests in the path of the study of the 'personal information rights and interests of the property' of the antecedent problem, the right to the necessity of it. This paper attempts to compare the existing classification of personal information and clarify the attribution of property rights and interests in personal information on this basis, with a view to providing new ideas for related research.

3. Economic Value and Classification of Personal Information

3.1 Economic Value and Classification of Personal Information

At present, with the rapid development of science and technology, we all live in a digital society built on the basis of information and data, and data has become a key resource of the digital society due to its huge volume and wide range of uses. Personal information in varying degrees constitutes a component of big data, personal information is the content of data, data

is the expression of personal information, which is the premise of the discussion of the constitutional protection of personal information property rights and interests. The reason why a sound legal protection system for personal information is currently receiving widespread attention from society as a whole is that data containing personal information has unique characteristics such as 'identifiability', 'high value' and 'sharing'. Its production, storage, sharing and use will have an important impact on the protection of personal rights and interests and economic and social development, and whether the legal regulation of personal information is reasonable and perfect is related to the survival and development of human beings in the digital society. Vertically, from the traditional offline society to today's digital society, the carrier for the production and transmission of personal information has realised a qualitative change from the brain to the Internet platform, from the traditional oral or written transmission of simple and basic personal information such as name, address, gender, etc., to the transmission and utilisation of complex personal information through the Internet platform relying on information technology under the digital era; horizontally, the boundaries of personal information have changed from the traditional era to the digital era, from the traditional era to the digital age. Horizontally, the scope of personal information has expanded from simple personal natural information in the traditional era to complex personal natural information and personal social information in the digital era, and personal social information includes data that carries a person's activity trajectory and living habits.

In modern society, the collection and utilisation of personal information by data companies and internet platforms has become inevitable, and personal information is crucial to business development. For example, when an individual uses the mobile network to spend money on shopping software, personal information will be collected and recorded by multiple parties: telecommunication network operators geographic location of communication equipment, traffic usage data and other information in the process of the subject's use of the network equipment; shopping software will collect and record the subject's browsing and collection of product lists, product search records, purchase of goods,



etc., and analyse the consumer's personal consumption preferences in this way. Shopping software will collect and record the list of products browsed and collected by the subject, product search records, purchase information, etc. and use this to analyse the consumer's personal consumption preferences and carry out accurate advertising; banks will record the flow of funds in the process of consumption by the user and, in some cases, give priority to providing credit and other financial services to users with good financial status. In the commercial field, enterprises collect, store and analyse users' personal information through the Internet, not only can they derive users' shopping preferences and formulate accurate marketing plans to increase product sales, but also can achieve accurate advertising to obtain additional profits. The sharing and reuse of personal information between subjects based on the collection and use of personal information by the relevant subjects is called the 'secondary use' of personal information, which greatly enhances the economic value of the application of personal information and provides the most opportunity important for commercial organisations to create wealth in the economy and society. The 'secondary use' greatly enhances the economic value of the application of personal information, and provides the most important resources and production factors for commercial organisations to create wealth in the economy and society. According to Professor Peng Chengxin, it is not too much to compare data and information to oil, soil or oxygen. protection of information and property rights in the digital age is particularly important.

3.2 Typological Analysis of Personal Information

3.2.1 Current Major Classifications of Personal Information

Personal information is classified according to the purpose of privacy protection: sensitive personal information and trivial personal information. Earlier theories of the right to privacy arose in American jurisprudence, and the right to privacy in American law protects a wide range of objects, including reproductive family autonomy, autonomy, personal autonomy, and private information. Influenced by the partial overlap of attributes between privacy and personal information, personal information is categorised into sensitive personal information, which is more private,

and trivial personal information, which is less private. On this basis, the law regulates personal information differently, preconditions and more detailed procedural requirements set for the collection and use of sensitive personal information to achieve better protection of sensitive personal information. Trivial personal information is less protected than sensitive personal information because of its lesser impact on personal privacy. This classification method is based on the protection of personal information on citizens' privacy, and is not necessarily related to the protection of property rights and interests of personal information.

Personal information is classified according to whether it is directly identifiable or not: direct personal information and indirect personal information. If a piece of personal information can be used to identify a specific individual, then that piece of personal information is direct personal information, whereas if a piece of personal information cannot be used to directly identify a specific individual, and if it needs to be combined with other personal information in order to be successfully identified, then that piece of personal information is indirect personal information. The main reason for this classification is to fully protect the rights of citizens. In the early stage of the development of information technology, the number of direct personal information of individuals is relatively small while the number of indirect personal information accounts for a large proportion, so the legal norms related to the protection of personal information based on this classification can be improved, and norms can be formulated to better protect direct personal information, which can better promote the comprehensive protection of the rights of citizens; in addition, due to the large number of indirect personal information, it is also convenient for commercial organisations to protect this kind of personal information. In addition, because of the large amount of indirect personal information, it is also easy for commercial organisations to collect, use and process such personal information to carry out commercial activities and promote economic growth. However, with development of information technology, the number of direct personal information has gradually increased, and the scope information strictly controlled by the law has ultimately expanded, which

collection and use of personal information by commercial organisations, and also affects the development of the economic value of personal information, and is not conducive to the protection of the property rights and interests of citizens and commercial organisations. The above two classifications are the most common, but in a digital society where personal information is complex and varied, traditional classification is slightly insufficient.

According to the World Economic Forum, personal information is classified into information provided bv individuals. information observed by individuals, inferred by individuals. information classification viewpoint emerged with the advent of the Internet of Things (IoT) era, where the proportion of information provided by individuals to all information has been decreasing, personal information has been divided, and the traditional way of regulating personal information can no longer meet the reality. Drawing on this classification, some scholars have proposed a more scientific classification method that divides personal information into four categories, namely, 'basic personal information," 'recorded accompanying personal information,' 'predicted personal information', and 'Anonymous Information'. The first category is basic personal information, which refers to information that can accurately identify a specific citizen's identity submitted by an individual on his or her own initiative to the recipient of the information; the second category is companion personal information, which refers to information generated in the personal life and work of the subject of the information, and marks the subject of the information's social activities; the third category is predictive personal information, which refers to the conclusions drawn from profiling an individual through big data; and the fourth category is anonymised information, which refers to the fourth category is anonymised information, which refers to the removal of part of personal information that can accurately identify a as individual, anonymised specific and information loses its 'identifiability' it is no longer subject to the regulation of the legal system protection of personal for the information.

3.2.2 New Classification of Personal Information and Attribution of Property Interests

Drawing on the categorisation above, this paper

argues that personal information can be classified according to its source into: basic information, personal personal activity personal speculative information, and information. The first category is personal basic information, which refers to information that an individual has naturally or is formed later that can accurately identify a specific individual, and can be divided into: identifying personal information (such as name, ID card number, personal mailbox number, social software number, and other information that can directly point to a specific individual) and attribute personal information (such as ethnicity, personal home address, personal occupation, academic information, religious beliefs, political outlook, social relations, work experience, and other information that can describe the attributes of an individual), the generation and submission of this type of personal information is completely dependent on the subject of the information, and has a very obvious personality attributes. The second category is personal activity information, which refers to the information formed in the social activities such as life and work of the subject of information, and records the traces of activities other than the basic information of the subject of information. For example, personal consumption records, personal medical records, personal work records, and the health code information of citizens since the emergence of the new crown epidemic. The generation of these activity information is not actively organised and submitted by the information subject, but is formed in the daily life, work and social activities of the information subject and collected and recorded by the information enterprise. Some of the collection of personal activity information has gone through the authorisation or permission of the information subject, i.e., through the 'informed consent' procedure. For example, when the information subject tries to use a certain mobile phone application, before using it, there will be a form agreement provided by the operator of the application, which often requires that Users are often required to allow the collection of information such as their address and browsing history when using the app, and if they do not agree to the form agreement, they will not be able to use the app; furthermore, in some cases, organisations may commercial seem reasonably store personal information that has been obtained in the course of a commercial

activity but which has not been subject to an 'informed consent' process, such as a 'user' who has not given his or her consent. In addition, in some cases, commercial organisations may also seem to reasonably store personal information obtained in the course of a commercial activity without 'informed consent', such as personal contact details and the address where goods are to be delivered when a user makes a purchase on an online platform. Although personal activity information cannot be used to identify a specific subject alone, it can be combined with other information to achieve identification of a specific subject, so it has the attribute of personality; the third category is personal speculative information, which refers to the Internet platform and other data enterprises in the mastery of the individual's basic information and personal information, and invested in capital, technology and other related resources to use big data and cloud computing to classify the existing personal information. The third category is personal speculative information, which means that after Internet platforms and other data enterprises have grasped the basic information and personal activity information of individuals, they invest funds, technology and other relevant resources to use big data and cloud computing to classify and analyse the existing personal information to form the personal portrait of the information subject and make speculation on the behaviour of the information subject. The difference between personal speculative information and personal activity information is mainly the different sources and functions. The formation of personal activity information is based on the personal daily life and social activities of the subject of information, the role played by Internet platforms and information enterprises in the formation of such personal information is only the use of information technology to collect and record traces generated by the subject of information for the use of the enterprise collector; and personal speculative information is based on the analysis of the personal activity information on the basis of the subject of the information of interpersonal activities, on the other hand, personal speculative information is based on the analysis of personal activity information to depict the subject's interpersonal activities, working conditions, behavioural habits, sports hobbies and so on, so as to prepare for the further

development and implementation of more targeted business behaviour. In the process of forming personal speculative information, Internet platforms and information enterprises play a major role as producers and undoubtedly make more efforts.

Undoubtedly, no matter what classification criteria are adopted, as far as the distribution of personality rights and interests over personal information is concerned, as long as personal information carries the personality attributes of the subject of information, its personality rights and interests should be enjoyed by the subject of information. And the distribution of property rights and interests is closely related to the classification of personal information, according to the new classification standard proposed in this paper, the generation of personal basic information is completely dependent on the information subject, so the property rights and interests carried by such personal information should be fully attributed to the information subject; and due to the source and formation of personal activity information and personal speculative information is obviously different from the characteristics of personal basic information, the property rights and interests of the two kinds of information should be attributed to the information subject by the recording, generation and formation of personal information, and the property rights and interests should be attributed to the information subject. The property rights and interests of these two kinds of information shall be shared by the information enterprise that records and generates personal information and the subject of information. Because of the difference between these two types of information, the property rights and interests carried by personal activity information shall be attributed to the information subject in large part and the information enterprise in small part, and vice versa for personal speculative information.

4. Constitutional Validation of Property Interests in Personal Information Vested in the Subject of the Information

4.1 Property Rights of Personal Information in the Constitutional Perspective of Property Rights

In order to explore the attribution of personal information in the constitutional context, we must first clarify the concept of constitutional property rights and its scope, and then clarify whether personal information can be the object

of the rights protected by the constitutional property rights. The right to property is a very broad concept of rights, in different historical stages of economic and social development has a different concept of the core. Modern property jurisprudence is the core of ownership, so the modern constitutional documents in the concept of property rights are basically to property ownership as the interpretation of the boundary. With the social and economic development, the modern concept of property rights has been greatly expanded the boundaries of ownership is still the most important part of the property rights system, but intangible property rights such as intellectual property rights and administrative licensing rights and other rights of public law but can produce private economic interests are also included in the modern system of property rights and play an increasingly important role. Professor Lin Laifan believes that 'the so-called property rights, is all the with property value.' And constitutional property rights can be regarded as the citizens enjoy all the legal rights with property value to obtain the right of constitutional guarantee. Article 13 of the Constitution stipulates: 'Citizens' lawful private property shall be inviolable; the State shall protect citizens' private property rights and inheritance rights in accordance with the provisions of the law; and the State may, in the public interest, expropriate or requisition citizens' private property in accordance with the provisions of the law, and compensate them for expropriation or requisition.' provision is the property right clause in the current Constitution of China, which demonstrates that the constitutional property right guarantees the property rights of citizens while being limited by public interests. In the relationship between constitutional property rights norms and other norms of the constitution is not isolated, but closely linked and mutually supportive, so the study of China's constitutional property rights can not be Article 13 and the other provisions of the constitution in isolation. Some scholars believe that constitutional property rights are different from civil law property rights, the key lies in: the constitutional property rights is to protect 'people' as the centre, rather than the

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conditions on which the individual's survival and freedom depend, and to safeguard the development and perfection of the individual's personality. Civil law, on the other hand, only regards ownership as a material right that should be guaranteed. But this viewpoint does not accurately distinguish the scope of effect of the two kinds of property rights, and the difference in the scope of effect is the most prominent difference between the two, while there is no significant difference between the subject and object of the two kinds of rights. Constitutional property right is always a fundamental right in nature, like other constitutional rights, its direct effect always stops within the relationship between the citizen and the state, while the effect of the civil law property right applies to private subjects. Then the effect of the constitutional right to property can not protect the property rights and interests of private subjects, the answer is obviously negative. Although the effect constitutional property rights provisions can not directly to the private subject of property disputes, but the constitutional property rights provisions can be used as the state to make the relevant laws, the judicial organs to adjudicate the relevant cases between the private subject of the guidance, thus realising the protection of the Constitution on the right to private property.

At present, there are different opinions as to whether personal information can be protected as a kind of property under the property rights provisions of the Constitution. The first opinion is the view of personality right protection, some scholars think that personal information rights and interests is a kind of personality rights and interests with the core of protecting human dignity and freedom, this kind of view denies the property attribute of personal information, and simply takes personal information as the object of protection, and carries out the legal protection on the basis of the personality right, and Prof. Wang Liming thinks that if the protection of personal information by the method of the protection of the right of property will damage the protection of personal information's personality interest. protection of personal information will be undermined if the protection of personal information is based on the protection of property rights. The Civil Code will be formally promulgated in 2020, and China's Civil Code will creatively set up the 'personality rights' for

centre.

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the protection of personality rights and interests, and in this context, there are more views and emphasising the personality attributes of personal information; the second is the view of property rights, and scholars holding this view believe that personal information has significant property attributes and great economic value, and emphasise that personal information should be protected on the basis of property rights, and that personal information should be protected on the basis of personality rights, and that personal information should be protected on the basis of property rights. The second view is the property right view, scholars holding this view believe that personal information has significant property attributes and great economic value, and emphasise that personal information should be protected by the property right; the third view balances the personality right view and the property right view, and believes that personal information has the element of personality as well as the element of property, and it should be protected on an equal footing. According to the general opinion, to judge whether a right belongs to the scope of protection of constitutional property rights, the core is whether a right has economic value, and the second is to judge whether the right has been protected by other fundamental rights. As mentioned above, the scope of objects guaranteed by the provisions of a country's constitutional property rights is very broad, and all rights with property value are protected, without any difference in protection due to the difference between private or public law rights, and even expectancy rights with property value and even property with legitimacy defects can be conditionally included in the scope of protection. With the development of digital society, the economic value of personal information has achieved exponential growth by the wide application of information technology, and commercial organisations have created a lot of wealth by relying on the internet platform to collect, analyse and share personal information, and big data has become the most important economic resource in modern society, and personal information data as a part of the big data obviously has a very high economic value. It can be concluded that the viewpoint of

denying the economic value of personal

information is obviously untenable. So, has

personal information been well protected by

other fundamental rights? It has been argued that personal information is well protected by Article 38 of the Constitution. However, Article 38 of the Constitution provides that 'human dignity shall be inviolable' in the 'human dignity' connotation is the freedom and dignity of the citizen shall not be degraded, in the field of personal information protection, is to protect the information subject has been processing, to regain the status of the subject, and to ensure that its personal information is handled in a way that is consistent with the dignity of the human personality. Article 38 of the Constitution has its roots and destinations in the protection of personal information with the attributes of the personality, rather than personal information with the rights and interests of the property and the economic value. Therefore, the economic value and property attributes of personal information are not well protected by other fundamental rights, and it can be concluded that personal information belongs to the objects of the rights protected by the property rights provisions of the Constitution.

The property right to personal information is a constitutional intangible property right, and because of its private law attributes, it can bring property benefits to the subject of private law, and is specifically protected by civil and commercial laws. The reason why personal information property rights is a constitutional right, because the right is closely related to the constitutional protection of citizens' human dignity and citizens' legal property rights, the protection of personal information on the property rights and interests is to protect the rights of the subject of the basic rights under the Constitution. In the digital society, personal information property attributes with development economic and information technology applications more and more closely combined, its economic value gradually highlighted, information enterprises personal information to engage in commercial activities to obtain huge profits. Personal information has a natural property attribute and through the development of information technology in the information society has become the cornerstone resource of the information economy, which is the property of personal information property rights. In the traditional civil law theory, ownership as the most important part of the property system, the object of which is a tangible object that can be

exclusively controlled by the subject of the right, and personal information data as the object of personal information property right exists in the digital carrier, is not a concrete tangible thing, so the property right built on it is an intangible property right. Personal information can bring great property benefits for economic subjects and as the object of constitutional property rights, should be protected by the constitutional property rights system. Currently for the protection of personal information property rights and no special legal norms, the relevant norms are scattered in the civil law provisions. Constitutional property rights system as China's property rights system and guide construction of the property rights system, with the development of the information economy, the creation of personal information property rights appeared and triggered academic questioning. A representative point of view is that personal information only exists personality rights and interests but not property rights and interests, and only after the data processor has processed the data assets, there are property rights and interests on them, and at this time, the property rights and interests have nothing to do with the subject of the information. Cheng Xiao Professor that personal information on the existence of property rights and interests on the premise that the interests from the public perception of the rights and interests exist, that is, with a certain degree of social identifiability. Currently, citizens do not have a clear awareness of the amount, type and use of personal information data generated by themselves, and the collection, storage and use of personal information rely on the corresponding carrier, so there is no property right or property interest in personal information, but this kind of point of view seems to be debatable, the current personal information in the social economy plays an extremely important role is self-evident, information enterprises and Internet platforms rely on the use of personal information to achieve profits, the state treasury also indirectly benefit, how can such an important factor of production does not exist above corresponding property rights it, if after the processing of personal information formed by the if information enterprises enjoy property rights over 'data assets' formed through the processing of personal information, why are there no property rights over personal information data as raw materials, bearing in mind that the formation of personal information also relies on the production and processing of information subjects and information enterprises. The property right of personal information and its increasingly prominent property attributes can not be separated, the property right of personal information is in a new social form, in line with the property rights for more perfect protection of the specific show, which also fully reflects the value of citizens' personal information to the general respect.

4.2 Constitutional Validation of the Attribution of Property Interests in Personal Information

In the context of personal information as the most important resource in the era of big data, due to the special nature of personal information, which is different from the object of other constitutional property rights, the legal attribution of personal information property is controversial, and it has become a major challenge to strike a balance between the comprehensive protection of the rights of citizens and the reasonable use of personal information data for the promotion of economic and social development. The major problem in the economic and social practice of personal information is that in most cases, personal information is collected and utilised by internet platforms and data information enterprises without compensation, while it is difficult for ordinary information subjects to protect their legitimate rights and interests. This paper argues that the property rights and interests of personal information should be allocated to the information subject in whole or in part on the basis of the typology of personal information. The principle of socialism, the goal of common prosperity, the system of distribution according to labour, and the promotion of economic development in China's Constitution may provide normative requirements for distribution of property rights and interests in personal information.

4.2.1 Socialist Principle

The socialist principles of the Constitution have a variety of connotations, but one of the key concepts of great importance is the maintenance of fairness and justice in society. The preamble to the Constitution is the soul of the Constitution and an important part of it. The preamble of the Constitution of China describes the glorious history of the Communist Party of China (CPC), which led the people of all ethnic groups in the

country to establish the People's Republic of China through long and arduous endeavours and to make great achievements in the cause of socialist construction. After the establishment of the new socialist China, the people gained equal rights and status, and the maintenance of social equity and justice has been guiding the advancement of socialist construction. However, with the development of economy and society, the social subjects have been divided, and the power ratio between different subjects has been very different.

As a matter of fact, the dispute over the ownership of personal information and property rights reflects the conflict of interests between commercial organisations with strong economic and technological capabilities and citizens with a single weak power in the context of the big data era. In order to achieve social justice, it is necessary to balance the rights and obligations of social subjects, which requires the state to restrict the dominant party and support the weak party in the society through the law under the guidance of socialist principles, so as to achieve the goal of reconciling the contradictions between the two parties and maintaining social stability.

4.2.2 Distribution System Based on Work

China has always adhered to a distribution system in which multiple modes of distribution coexist with distribution according to labour as the mainstay, and the system of distribution according to labour is the mainstay of China's distribution system. Focusing on the text of the Constitution, article 6 of the Constitution, as the opening chapter of the Economic System section of the General Outline Chapter of the Constitution, stipulates the distribution system together with the basic economic system, in the hope that this will lead to the entire conception of the socialist economic system in the current Constitution.

Regardless of the criteria for classifying personal information, the formation of personal information is the result of human labour, and the difference is only in the amount. 'Labour creates value' and "labour creates wealth" is a prerequisite for the meaning of labour, and the meaning of labour in the current society has shifted from the traditional concept of labour in the industrial and agricultural age to the new concept of labour in the information age.

4.2.3 Promoting Economic Development

Based on the importance of personal information data in the social economy and the promotion of social and economic development personal through the extensive use of information, it is self-evident that the attribution of property rights and interests in personal information will have a significant impact on economic development, and therefore we need to explore how to distribute property rights and interests in personal information in a way that is more conducive to the stable and positive development of the social economy. The text of the current Constitution reflects in many places that the state will promote social and economic development as an important goal. Since the preamble of the Constitution, the seventh paragraph of the preamble of the Constitution clearly stipulates that the socialist market economy should be developed.

After entering the information age, the concept of 'Internet Plus' has emerged, and the in-depth integration of various industries with the Internet has become an inevitable path for the continued development of society and the economy, while the personal lives of citizens have become intertwined with the Internet and cannot be separated. In the process of economic development in the information age, the main body that plays a significant or even decisive role is the Internet platform and information enterprises. Therefore, when discussing the issue of legal regulation of the property rights and interests of personal information, in order to better contribute to the prosperous development of the information economy. When defining the attribution of rights and interests, a balance should be struck between the two poles, in accordance with the principle of equity and efficiency, based on the classification of personal information, the property rights and interests of personal information should be reasonably distributed, so as to enable enterprises to make profits even when they bear greater costs, and also to ensure that the main body of information obtains the property rights and interests to which it is entitled, so as to promote the stable and favourable development of the information economy.

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