

Google bends to German privacy concerns

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(AP) -- Google Inc. says it has doubled the time Germans have to opt out of participation in its "Street View" feature, which has sparked a fierce public debate on privacy concerns.

Philipp Schindler, Google's vice president for Northern and Central Europe, said in a statement Thursday that Germans will now have eight weeks, instead of four, to request images of their homes be deleted.

[Google](#) recently announced it will introduce "[Street View](#)" for 20 German cities in November, raising concerns in this privacy-conscious country.

At authorities' insistence, the company created an online tool Germans can use to request pictures of their homes be removed. But many politicians insisted the initial four-week deadline to submit the request was insufficient.

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