

PRIVACY

*REMEMBER: NOTHING posted online through a social networking site or blog is going to be completely private. Therefore it is important to weigh the costs/ benefits when choosing where and how to use social networks.

That being said...privacy settings can be made more secure.

On Facebook:

You can set account security to notify you if a new computer or mobile device is used to log in to your account. You can also view recent account activity to ensure that you know where and when your account was last accessed.

How to do this: Log in to Facebook account, Click the far right tab: 'Account', select: 'Account Settings' from the drop-down menu. Scroll downscreen to 'Account Security' and click that. This will open the option for notification as well as information about the most recent login.

Applications and Games: To play a game or use an application you are asked whether you wish to "allow access" in order to play the game, use the application, take the quiz, etc. Allowing access allows the creator of the application access to your profile information. Friends' information can also be pulled and accessed by the creator. So even if you don't use applications, but your friends do, the creator of those games may be able to access your information.

To change these settings and deny access: Log in to account; select 'Account' on the far right of the screen. Select: 'Privacy Settings' from the drop-down menu. On the bottom left of the screen you will see 'Applications and Websites'. Click: 'Edit Your Settings'. By turning off 'Platform Applications' you can cancel access to creators of any applications you may previously have used, and this will prevent your information from being shared when friends use applications.

Public Search: A Facebook account may be searchable through Google, Bing, etc.

To shut this search option off: Log in to Facebook, Click: 'Account' on top right of screen, select: 'Privacy Settings' from drop down menu, select: 'Edit Your Settings' under 'Applications and Websites' at the bottom left of your screen. The last option in the list that appears is: 'Public Search'. Click on the button to the right of that, which reads: 'Edit Settings'. If the box next to 'Enable Public Search' is checked, then your account is search-(and find)-able. Click the box to un-check and disable public search.

Facebook Directory Search: Even if Public Search is disabled, an account may be searchable on Facebook's directory.

To check the status of, and change, this setting: follow the above directions to the 'Privacy Settings' main page. At the top you will see: 'Basic Directory Information'. Click 'View Settings.' This allows you to customize who can search for you on Facebook, and who can see what information.

Other Privacy settings on Facebook are customizable. From the 'Privacy Settings' page you can view current settings and customize who can view certain things, who can post on your page, etc. You can disable friends from being able to "check you in" under the *Places Application*, which reveals up-to-the-minute location information (people often use this application to check-in at restaurants, movies, etc.). You can also block certain people, customize groups, and learn more about Facebook's privacy policies. You can also choose how much information is available by making choices of what you list in profile information; for example, it is not necessary to list employer, relationship status, interests, etc.

*KEEP IN MIND: with large "Friend" groups that most Facebook users have, it can still be a challenge to control what information about you is on FB!

Photos: anyone can post a photo, with you in it, and tag you in it- which means it will list your name under the photo for anyone else who views it. If a friend posts photos, and they don't have album settings private, anyone may be able to view those. Any photos you are tagged in will be listed under 'Photos of Me' on your account. You can un-tag yourself in a photo, so your name won't be attached to it anymore, but unless you posted the photo, you can't remove it entirely.