

What You Need to Know About Facebook

Just the Facts:

Your control online is limited.

Just because you've tweaked your privacy settings doesn't mean your online profile won't come back to haunt you. A person who was once a friend may use your profile against you if the relationship goes sour. Also remember that pictures of you "tagged by others" or messages posted on your wall can come back to haunt you.



Information you post on facebook isn't always private.

Google yourself. You might be surprised to find what information shows up about you. It's important to remember that things you post could end up in the public domain.

Predators LOVE the web.

Posting your cell phone number, where you live, class schedule and when you're out of your apartment or dorm room may seem like a great way to keep your friends in the loop. However, there have been numerous cases of stalking, harassment and break-ins that have originated from social networking websites. Posting personal info on the web can also make you more vulnerable to identity theft.

Employers are on Facebook!

It has become a common practice for companies to look at candidates' online profiles before hiring employees. It has even been reported that some companies are paying students to print off profiles of other students. Don't let your facebook profile be the reason that you get passed over for your dream job.

Online Rules to Live By:

Do not accept all friend requests.

The purpose of facebook and other social networking sites is to connect with people you know. But not all friend requests are legitimate. Accepting a friend request from someone you don't know could be potentially harmful.

Be careful of what you post on your wall.

Web transmissions aren't foolproof unless they use secure forms of authentication and encryption. Posting something online is just as open and available to others as posting something on your door. So always think twice before posting!

Your online profile may be the only impression someone has of you.

While close friends may know you're joking about something you've posted, someone else who stumbles across your profile may have only that information to gauge who you are. Make sure the image you're projecting online is one that accurately represents you.

Use privacy settings to help control who can access your information.

Facebook allows you to restrict the availability of your profile to certain individuals. The more you restrict who can see your profile, postings and pics, the less likely you are to encounter problems on Facebook. While these settings provide no guarantees, they can be a useful tool in gaining some control over your details and photos.

Don't leave your computer on with your facebook account open.

Leaving your account open where other people can access it leaves you vulnerable to other people making changes to your profile, posting on your wall, and even chatting with your friends pretending to be you. Avoid these potentially negative consequences by always logging out!

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