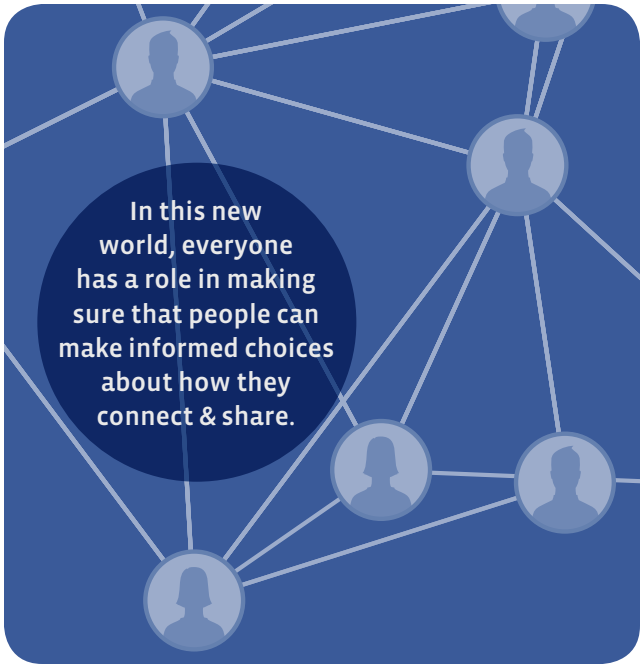
How to Control Your Information on Facebook

A National Association of Attorneys General and Facebook Consumer Education Campaign

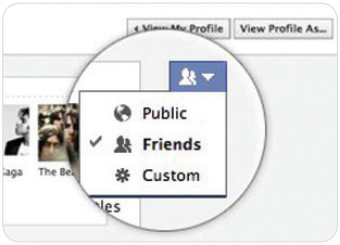


Social media is creating a world that is more open and connected, enabling people to share the most important parts of their lives with families, friends and communities.

Facebook and the National Association of Attorneys General have teamed up to offer these tips on how you can control your information on Facebook. Our goal is to help you take advantage of the privacy controls that Facebook puts at the center of the experience, so that you can make the choice that is right for you about what information you share, and with whom you share it.

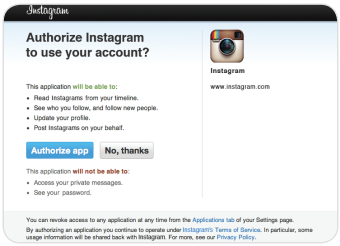
Use Privacy Controls

1 Check your audience before you post



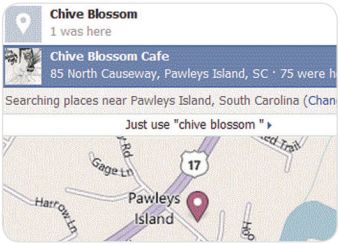
Facebook has in-line privacy controls so that you can set your audience – Private, Friends, Friends of Friends, Public – before you post a status update.

2 Check app privacy before authorizing an app



Before authorizing an app, Facebook tells you what information the app is gathering. You'll also be able to choose whether to allow the app to make timeline posts on your behalf.

3 Be location aware



Whether you're checking in with your mobile device or you are tagging your location, you're in control of whether you share your location with other people on Facebook.

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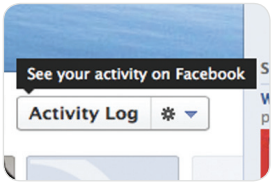
Checking Your Settings

4 Check your Activity Log



Facebook has an activity log that is only visible to you. This is where you can see and control the privacy of things you've posted on Facebook.

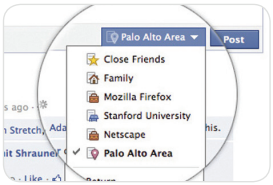
5 Think before you tag & check what you are tagged in

Tagging helps you see when people are posting about you, and it helps people find you. With Activity Log, you can untag yourself from photos you're tagged in or use Facebook's Social Reporting to ask someone to remove photos entirely.

6 Check your privacy settings

Facebook's privacy settings help you control who can see your stuff on Facebook and how you connect with other people. You can access the most common privacy settings from the privacy shortcut icon at the top of the page.

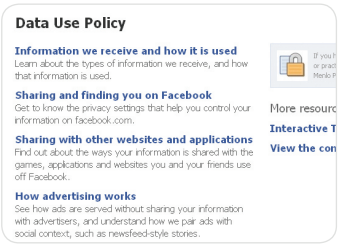
7 Create Custom Lists & Groups



Sometimes you want to share information with a specific group of your friends. On Facebook, you can create custom lists to limit your sharing. You can also use Facebook Groups to create smaller communities.

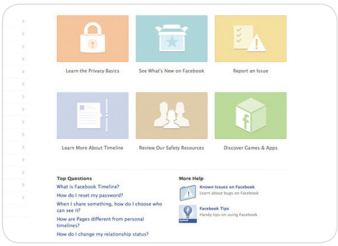
Stay Informed

8 Read the Data Use Policy



The Facebook Data Use Policy is the central location for information about privacy on Facebook. It features all of the information you need about controlling your information on the site, with apps, and in mobile.

9 Check Out the Help Center



The Facebook Help Center lets you get answers to your privacy questions. You can also learn the Facebook privacy basics, learn about the privacy features of new parts of our service, and see how to contact Facebook when you have a problem.

10 Stay up to date on the Facebook & Privacy Page

On Facebook, safety is a conversation and everyone has a role. Stay up to date on how privacy is built into the Facebook service by liking the Facebook & Privacy Page. The page also includes an Ask the CPO feature that lets you send questions to Facebook's Chief Privacy Officer, and any other privacy information.

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