



Facebook

Facebook is the largest social media platform with approximately 1.97 billion active users. The idea behind Facebook is to allow users to share their events and experiences with an audience of their choosing.



Facebook also have their own **messaging service**



Facebook offers **privacy controls** that you can manage



Default Settings

Every user on Facebook has their own unique profile, by default people that you aren't friends with have the ability to view a preview of this profile. This includes; a limited selection of your photos - such as profile pictures and cover photos, an overview of your profile information - relationship status etc, and finally your friends list.



Things to Consider

Facebook is a great way to connect with friends and to share content online, however your Facebook profile can also expose personal information with unintended recipients. This can range from current/future employers discovering inappropriate content, to a malicious attacker using your profile to uncover personal details.



Posts

Posts made by a user can only be seen by 'friends'. Facebook allows users to alter this default setting as well as allowing users to configure each post's audience individually. This is a great feature as it means that you can alter the privacy settings of each post relative to it's content.



Control Your Privacy Settings

To configure your privacy settings on Facebook, navigate to account settings. This can be found by selecting the tab to the right of your notifications. Within the account settings page there are several areas that can be altered to suit people privacy needs.



Who can see your posts?

The four main options that Facebook provides are **Public**, **Friends**, **Only Me** and **Friends Except**. For personal and private pages you should use friends, or friends except. These options mean that only people you have chosen to connect and share with can see what you post.



Who can look me up?

There are several ways to keep your Facebook private, one of these is preventing people finding it in the first place. Facebook allows you to decide whether you want people to be able to find you by email address/phone number or even by search engines. Restricting these settings can help keep your account private.