

Staying safe on Facebook

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With social networking sites springing up like mushrooms nowadays, it becomes quite difficult to fight the temptation of joining these online communities. With such an assortment served up, it's hard to decide whether it's going to be orkut, hi-5, twitter, facebook or any other.

Like it or hate it, social networking sites have become a craze now and have transformed the meaning of the word 'community'. Keeping oneself separate from the rest of the world has become almost impossible, and quite frankly, meaningless. With such a handy tool to stay in touch with friends, acquaintances and relatives, why miss out on the opportunity?

In spite of all the good things, many are cynical of these websites due to security issues. Numerous parents are very much concerned about their children joining such networks. Reaction of parents of teenagers, especially are quite mixed. On one hand, they are aware of the need for their kids to interact, but are concerned about how safe their kids will be in this open community, where they can befriend anyone they want from anywhere in the world. Many parents find the fact that you can type someone's name into the search box and it will find them, kind of creepy. Moreover, ID fraudsters target these social networking sites to harvest information about people.

Here's how we recommend you set your Facebook privacy options to protect against online identity theft.

So how does one ensure that their children and their family stay safe, and at the same time enjoy



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HUQ

being part of these social networks? How does one set their Facebook privacy options so as to stay protected against online identity theft? The key is to keep settings as private and limited as possible.

But first and foremost, use good judgment in planning who you will add. Your profile is like a whole book about you. It has all kinds of information about you, your interests, places you go to, your photographs etc. Adding someone on Facebook is like inviting him to come into your house and letting him see your world. Just adding anyone who has sent you a friend request will mean letting him enter your house. You wouldn't

want any stranger in would you? You can however also remove friends at any time should you change your mind about someone.

At the very bottom of every page on Facebook, there's a link that reads "Privacy." The linked page "A guide to privacy on Facebook," contains the latest privacy functions and policies. For example, with the latest changes, Facebook has reduced the amount of basic information that must be visible to everyone. Now they are giving the user the ability to control who can see his friends and pages. These fields will no longer have to be public. When in doubt, use the "Preview my profile" button on

any privacy settings page to check how your information appears to others.

Keep your friend's list organised in categories, such as 'Friends', 'Colleagues', 'Family', etc. This will make it easier to put control settings and categorise who can see what and how much.

You can choose to make people 'limited friends' who only have access to a cut-down version of your profile if you wish. This can be useful if you have associates who you do not wish to give full friend status to, or feel uncomfortable sharing personal information with.

Think about how you want to use Facebook. If it's only to keep in

touch with people and be able to contact them. It makes a lot of sense to disable an option until you have decided you do want and need it, rather than start with everything accessible.

You can even control who can find you on Facebook via search. If you do not want any known or unknown person to find you by searching your name, you can set this option through "Search discovery" option under "Privacy".

Last but not the least, how do you protect children from groups that are a bad influence? The government of Bangladesh had to recently block access to Facebook temporarily after the arrest of a youth in connection with uploading objectionable images of some politicians including the prime minister and the leader of the opposition. Local media quoted the state-run Bangladesh Telecom Regulatory Commission (BTRC) saying that the posting of some anti-religious and objectionable links by users across the globe are among the reasons for restricting the access.

To report any group that you find proliferating offensive messages, pictures or any other content, simply click on the link "Report this group", which will be at that bottom of every profile page and picture viewed. This will allow Facebook authorities to be informed and take necessary action against the group or person.

All said and done, if you choose not to take any precautions, then you'll only have yourself to blame when an errant wall post or unpleasant photo makes its way online and straight into your mother's News Feed, or worse, your boss's. These days, it's better to be safe than sorry, so go ahead and delve into those settings!

Over 160,000 Android devices sold every day: Google CEO

AFP, New York

More than 160,000 mobile phones powered by Google's Android operating system are being sold every day, the Internet giant said Wednesday on the eve of the launch of the new iPhone from rival Apple.

Google chief executive Eric Schmidt, speaking to the CNBC television network at the unveiling of a new Android phone from Motorola, the "Droid X," said his company was engaged in a "battle over the next set of mobile platforms."

"Everybody is going to be on mobile devices all the time, every day, unless they're asleep," Schmidt said. "Everything is moving to mobile and we're participating in it."

"We have more than 160,000 of these things shipping globally every day," Schmidt said of Android-powered devices. "The momentum is phenomenal."

Just a month ago, at Google's annual shareholders meeting, Schmidt had said that at least 65,000 Android-powered phones were shipping every day, although he also warned at the time that the number may actually be far higher.

Google makes its Android software available to handset manufacturers and also sells its own smartphone, the Nexus One.

The spectacular sales figures cited by Schmidt would have Android handsets far surpassing those of Apple, which reported sales of 8.75 million iPhones last quarter.

According to industry research firm NPD, US sales of smartphones running Android actually surged past those of Apple in the first quarter of the year.

Android-powered smartphones accounted for 28 percent of US consumer sales compared with 21 percent for the iPhone, NPD said.

Canada's Research in Motion, maker of the popular BlackBerry, retained the top spot with 36 percent of US smartphone sales in the quarter.

Apple has sold more than 50 million iPhones since launching the touchscreen smartphone in 2007.

The latest model iPhone, the iPhone 4, goes on sale on Thursday in Britain, France, Germany, Japan and the United States.

Deutsche Bank said it expects Apple to sell 44 million iPhones this year.



Google CEO Eric Schmidt

HP unveils Converged Infrastructure

IT, TELECOM REPORT

Hewlett-Packard, one of the largest US-based information technology corporations, on June 17 officially announced launching of their latest storage solution -- HP Converged Infrastructure for mission-critical customers in the country.

To mark the occasion, a press conference was held at a city hotel where Gregory Lister, marketing manager of HP business critical servers described the 'real deal' of the servers they were launching.

The new HP Integrity solutions aims at significant improvement of customers' service-level agreement performance, providing complete applications availability and simplifying mission-critical computing for the demanding application workloads.

"We have overcome the challenges like uptime, reliability and flexibility and we also achieved a significant improvement in overall service levels", Gregory said during his presentation.

The latest Converged Infrastructure is built on a standard-based architecture across Microsoft Windows, Linux, HP-UX, OpenVMS



and HP NonStop platforms.

"The platforms enable clients and partners to build leading solutions that are flexible and adaptable to meet changing business demands", Gregory said.

The company also introduced AllianceONE, an alliance partner program that optimises solutions across servers, storage, networking and professional services that support the mission-critical Converged Infrastructure.

Asus launches notebook with Nvidia Optimus

IT, TELECOM DESK

Taiwanese computer maker ASUS has launched its strikingly stylish U30Jc notebook in the local market, says a press release.

For demanding productivity tasks, the U30Jc notebook features NVIDIA Optimus graphics-switching technology for performance and long battery life that chooses the best graphics processor for running a given application by automatically routing the



workload to the NVIDIA discrete GPU.

Featuring the multimedia and GPU compute savvy NVIDIA GeForce GT310M discrete graphics chipset and powered by the Intel Core i5 430M processor, the notebook is designed for multimedia enthusiasts who desire the best in multimedia entertainment, application productivity and casual gaming in an energy efficient package.

Getting online is easy as the U30Jc features Gigabit Ethernet and 802.11n wireless capabilities along with a Webcam and microphone input for video conferencing.

The thin and light notebook also offers a 13.3-inch backlit LCD display, 500GB of HDD, 2GB of fast DDR3 RAM, DVD writer, Bluetooth 2.1, memory card reader and rich HD audio emanating from the Altec Lansing speakers.

The product has a price tag of Tk. 61,500.



Apple mania unabated as fans scramble for iPhone 4

REUTERS, Paris/Tokyo

Apple fans queued overnight in their hundreds outside stores in Europe and Japan to snap up the latest iPhone, as the technology giant set a new benchmark in the hard-fought and fast-growing smartphone market.

The iPhone 4 makes possible video calls, can handle multiple tasks simultaneously and has longer battery life than previous versions -- adding specifications that some rivals already have to its iconic design appeal.

It sold a record 600,000 in pre-orders in a single day last week, and BGC analyst Colin Gillis expects Apple to set a record for being the first company to sell a million smartphones in a single day.

For the current quarter, which ends on Saturday, analysts expect Apple to sell 8-9 million iPhones, including sales of older models. Analysts expect Apple to ship 10 million or more a quarter, as output ramps up to meet demand.

Apple's latest salvo in the battle for the smartphone market, which IT research firm Gartner expects to grow 46 percent this year over last year's 172 million units, comes as rivals based on Google's Android software gather steam.

Analysts estimate that Android's 4 percent of the market last year will grow to 11 percent this year, while Apple's share is seen steady at 14 percent.

Still, Apple's cult status remains undented.

Queuing for an iPhone 4 outside the Apple store in San Francisco, 31-year-old Joseph Lobato said: "I haven't slept in 30 hours."

Meanwhile, top phone maker Nokia's smartphone strategy has faltered recently, while BlackBerry maker Research In Motion -- due to report results later on Thursday -- has been losing momentum.

In Paris, Apple aficionados began queuing at lunchtime on Wednesday for a midnight iPhone launch at France Telecom's flagship Champs

Elysees store.

"I've heard a lot of good things about it. I couldn't resist any more," said Virginie, a 27-year-old marketing assistant and first-time iPhone buyer, and one of the few females queuing.

APPLEADDICTS

In London, 27-year-old business consultant Alex Lee queued for 32 hours outside Apple's central London store. A Canadian who lives in Dubai, Lee made the trip just for the launch and said the queuing was as important as the phone itself.

The iconic phone has become Apple's main growth driver, and is expected to soon become its biggest source of revenue. Some analysts estimate that more than two-thirds of iPhone sales come from outside its home U.S. market.

The iPhone 4 is on sale in Japan, France, Germany, Britain and the United States from Thursday, and will be available in 18 countries in July and 88 by September in the quickest-ever international roll-out for an iPhone.



TECHPHOTO

HEWDD

A visitor tries out the "HEWDD (High End Wearable Display Device)-1080", which allows users to perceive virtual worlds, at the 3D and Virtual Reality Expo in Tokyo June 23, 2010.

PHOTO: REUTERS



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