

A darker side of Facebook



Nothing on the Internet is truly private. Not to sound like a conspiracy theorist, but there have always been loopholes in every form of virtual security measure, whether it is in the web-based email services, or Facebook accounts.

With the rising global popularity of social media, it is now all too easy to extract information while retaining complete anonymity. Armed with this knowledge, friends, colleagues and even criminals can stalk and harass their victims to no end.

Social media can be a powerful facet of your portrayal, but a simple, well-thought, alpha-numerical password is not enough to protect one's online identity. For people who upload pictures on a daily basis and with no specific security settings no less are at great risk of becoming a victim of identity theft. Someone can simply download those pictures, create a new profile under the victim's name and easily use the profile for nefarious

purposes, and more often than not, these are primarily directed towards female users.

It is of utmost importance to be vigilant, monitoring everything that you share.

Users also need to be extra cautious about adding new friends to their friend list. With the ever increasing threat of global terrorism one cannot even rule out the

possibility that such unknown individuals may harbor radical ideologies.

Frapping can be a fun prank sometimes, even trivial, but it is actually a form of identity theft. One seizes a friend's or colleague's laptop or phone, takes control of their social media profiles and then proceeds to post all sorts of embarrassing

information. On the surface, it is very simplistically inane and yet satisfying at the same time. Sure to get a guaranteed couple of laughs! What is not fun, however, is when someone they want to impress has to witness their painful descent into infamy. It could be any of their co-workers, professors, or God forbid, their office superior. Nobody wants their supervisors to make snap judgments about their personality.

As a person who has been a victim of cyber-bullying, I know how temptingly easy it is for people to jump on the 'bully' wagon. A screenshot and a funny caption were all it took for people to start dehumanising me.

The next time someone shares a secret screenshot of a private conversation with you, ask yourself if there is anything that is stopping them from doing the same to you and how much do you really trust them?

By Antara Islam

Photo: Collected

SMS (Social Media Security)

Social media, despite its many advantages, has its own share of perils. Every imaginable cyber threat applies three-fold for social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. Social media is a powerful tool, and so, it requires immense responsibility for usage.

Most of these problems can be avoided by improving the security settings found on Facebook, as well as maintaining a set of practises. A general user would be astonished as to how much control they have over their content once they visit the security page. Settings that control who can see your posts and pictures will help to keep your content secure from your friends, or even the general Facebook crowd altogether.

Also, if you wish to keep certain information or posts hidden from certain people on your list, you could simply

create a restricted or limited profile list and place them there.

You can set up your security settings so that you cannot even be found on search if they any random person did a search on you. It is also advisable to change passwords as often as possible and setting up alerts so that if anyone were to log in, you would be notified immediately and can take necessary steps to regain control.

Another thing to note is that uploading too many pictures, especially private ones, should always be avoided. Pictures of children should be uploaded with the least amount of frequency. What many people do not understand is that their Facebook page, regardless of how much they claim is their own and their private prop-

erty, does not really belong to them. It exists in the vast ocean of cyberspace and can be accessed if one has the knowledge and the means.

If you are in a bind, always remember that most social media sites have excellent response systems if you so require. If you have all the documents and other necessary materials that prove you have been wronged, they are quick to respond and rectify the situation.

What many people do not realise is that the use of social media demands a certain amount of common sense that we use anyway in our real lives. If those practises are applied here, the usefulness and enjoyment value of social media goes up exponentially.

By Intisab Shahriyar

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810 Out of Believe* Kumarika
REDUCES HAIR FALL
Noticeably



* as per standard testing protocol; with min 3 use/week; individual results may vary.