

FACEBOOK'S CHAOTIC BIRTHDAY

The controversies which went around during the company's fifteenth year

Facebook's birthday week was a rather eventful one to say the least. The social media platform turned 15 years old on February 4, 2019 and there was no shortage of surprises and gifts coming their way, courtesy of Apple and Europe.



APPLE'S BANHAMMER

News of Facebook and Google's wrong doings made waves last weekend and Apple weren't the least bit pleased about what was happening on their platform. Like taking candy from a baby, Facebook were misusing an Apple issued enterprise-certificate and tried to peddle the company internal app "Research" to users, even offering to pay as much as \$20 for downloading the app. Enterprise-certificates are only reserved for company employees so that they can share other employee only apps internally. It's like a V.I.P App Store, a private party if you will, and Facebook basically invited everyone to it.

This was a strict violation of Apple's code of conducts and what's worse is that, Research was just a repackaged Onavo, a "VPN" service Facebook launched on the App Store in 2013. What was fronted as a VPN app, turned out to be a huge source of Facebook's data collection from Apple and it only took five years for Tim Cook and co. to press the ban hammer on it. And if Onavo didn't make Facebook look bad enough, to violate developer and hardware manufacture agreements just to put Onavo back in the hands of users, which just makes Facebook look silly.

THE IMPLICATIONS OF FACEBOOK'S HUNGER FOR DATA

Speaking of looking silly, Google's Screenwise Meter got a similar treatment from Apple. Google however, sent off any decrypted data they could find back to their headquarters without gaining access to any encrypted user data. Facebook took it a step further by asking for access to root certification, which users happily gave away. This gave Facebook access to every nook and cranny of your phone, and even your browsing history. Apple have

promptly banned both apps from the App Store and had to re-issue the enterprise certificates, during which Facebook and all its developers were virtually offline on Apple. What may sound like an anti-climactic end may lead to more repercussions for Facebook as U.S Senators Mark Warner and Richard Blumenthal have already alleged the company for "wiretapping teens". This could lead to an investigation from the Federal Trade Commission and that won't go too well for Facebook.

INCREASING CONCERNS FROM EUROPE

Over on the other side of the Atlantic, Facebook's lead data protection regulator in Europe have warned them about privacy concerns over merging three messaging platforms. Facebook plans to create a unified Whatsapp, Instagram and Messenger and essentially bring them together. Facebook have already faced serious backlash from Europe, with a \$122 million fine to their name for misleading people regarding the details of the Whatsapp and Facebook merger. The original details proposed an integration of the two which was later found out to be Facebook's way of gaining data from Whatsapp users. This, and the Instagram message encryption which is in the works, raises further eyebrows and is why the sudden privacy concern. Facebook have been requested to provide "urgent briefing" and documentation of the plans regarding the integration of these three apps.

But, hey, at least Facebook has finally given us the ability to remove messages, because your privacy is in your hands or so they want us to think.

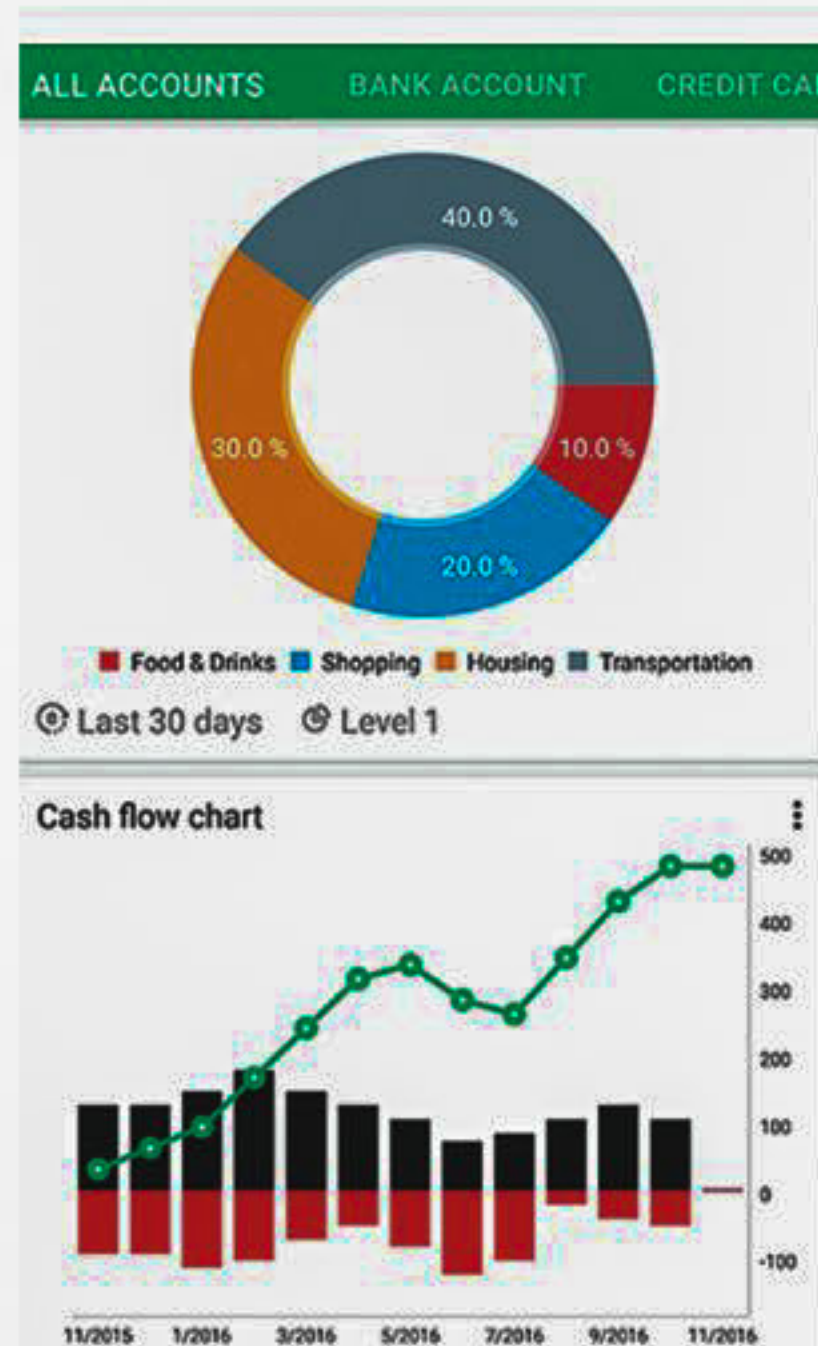
ASIF AYON

Become your own financial manager

Are you more equipped at spending money than saving it? Do you find yourself with surprisingly less money in the middle of the month than the amount you started off with in the first week? Do you wish you had a personal accountant who would handle your finances for free? If so, then these financial tracking and budget planning apps are made for you.

Money Manager

This app let's you track your daily, weekly, monthly and yearly net balance. Every time you spend money, you can add that to your expense tab on the go. The same goes for your income tab. You can also select the type of transaction you had, be it via cash, credit card or other forms of money transfers. To check how well you've been maintaining your finances, by seeing your stats income and expenses stats. There are also graphs that show the amount you've been spending on a particularly commodity over a course of time.



Wallet

Wallet allows you to keep track of how much money you have in your literal and metaphorical wallet in terms of cash other financial accounts you hold. You can input the amount of physical cash you have into its system, sync the app with your bank account or draw data from an Excel sheet that contains details on your finances. The app also lets you plan future payments, shopping lists and allows you to set up budget and savings plans. You can use a security code to make sure no one can go through your records in case you lose your phone.

Bucket

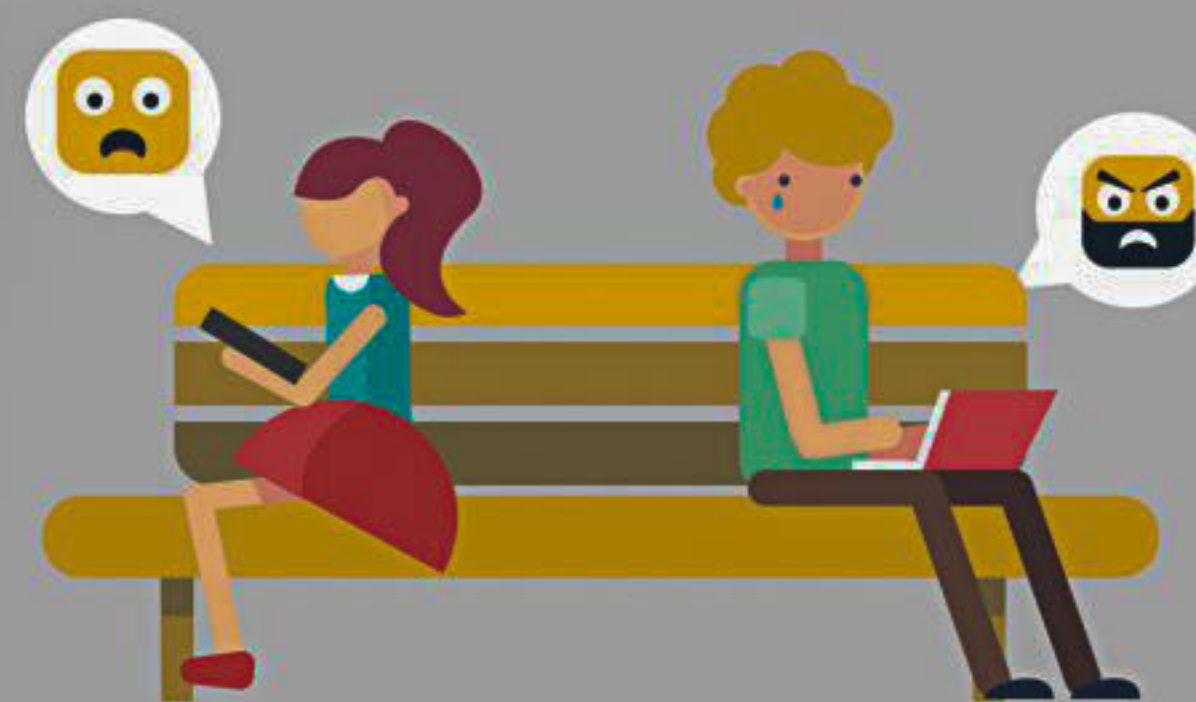
If you don't want something that is too complicated and need something very rudimentary, then this app is perfect for you. The app lets you set goals on savings and each time you save money you input that data. You can set various goals in the form of savings and making payments and keep track of it through a very simple interface. You can also select from a range of currencies other than BDT which can come in handy if you are going on a trip abroad. This app is fast and easy for those who want to set records of their savings or due payments.

PERIOD	REVENUE	EXPENSES	FOUR
02-24 - 03-02	\$ 0.00	\$ 700.00	\$ -700.00
02-17 - 02-23	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
02-10 - 02-16	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
02-03 - 02-09	\$ 0.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
01-27 - 02-02	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

All these apps are meant to assist you with spending smartly and will help you save more. So hopefully these will help rid you of all your financial woes.

MOHUA MOULI

HOW SAFE ARE YOUR KIDS ONLINE



25% of the children started accessing the digital world below the age of 11 in BD

63% children use internet in their bedroom, and same number of them use in common room

50% kids use parent's devices while 37% uses smartphone of their own



About 94% kids in Bangladesh have an account in at least one social media site/app

33% of the children chat everyday online. On average, they use two messenger apps



10% of the children shared their password with people other than their parents or siblings

THE MOST ALARMING CONCERNS

57% of the children befriends unknown people online

14% of the children said they had met with an online acquaintance

19% of the children received sexually inappropriate texts, 12% received images or videos

CAN THE LAW KEEP YOUR CHILDREN OUT OF HARM'S WAY?

The Digital Security Act 2018, Information and Communications Technology Act 2006 and Pornography Control Act 2012 offers some protection and legal coverage but many of the pressing issues still remains unaddressed in the existing legal structure

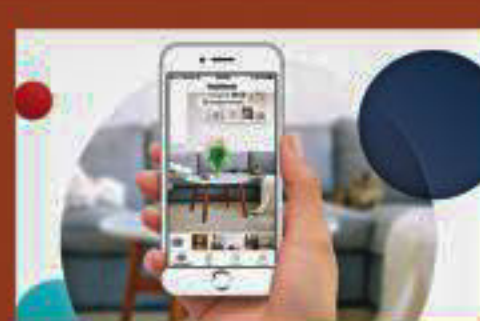
DESIGNED BY: SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

Information Source: Online Safety for Children, UNICEF, Feb 2019

TECH BITS
Spotify will start suspending or terminating accounts which are found using ad blockers



Facebook acquires retail computer vision outfit GrokStyle



Jeff Bezos accuses AMI, the owner of the National Enquirer of blackmail



Woody Allen sues Amazon for \$68 million over a four-picture deal with the company



Go-Jek buys fintech startup Coins.ph for \$72M to expand in Philippines

