SLC CYBER Security: Social media safety

Each month billions of people use social media. Whether it is to stay in touch, share pictures and videos, or find love, there are many risks that we all assume each time we log in to these sites. Facebook is still the leading company in the social media industry, and in December of 2016, they reported 1.86 billion monthly users (Facebook, 2017). It seems we are more connected, electronically at least, then ever before. But this also means that we are opening ourselves to many new risks as we bring people in to every aspect of our lives, with this constant connection. Below are some tips that we hope you will implement and share with those around you to keep safe online.

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1) **Choose your online friends wisely!** This is probably the most important tip we have. Online you can be anyone, but so can everyone else! This is why it is so important to actually know who your friends are, especially if you are sharing photos of minors. We know it is tempting to build the greatest list of friends or followers, but what if just one of them isn't who they say they are?

2) **Turn off location tracking.** This is important for mobile apps! Keep in mind every time you post, people can tell where you are. This can be turned off in the settings for each application. You can also turn off the GPS tracking for your device, which is also suggested. Very few apps should know where you are!

3) **Read the Terms of Use.** Do you know what you have agreed to? Do you really know who owns that picture you have posted? Does that app really need to access your contacts? These are just a few of the things that social media services outline in their terms of use. Just remember that these are updated regularly, so take a peak occasionally and keep informed.

4) **Be aware of who can see your posts.** Private, friends, or the whole world? Depending on your account and post settings you can change who sees your post. This can be very important for those nights out with friends or messages in a moment of heated emotion. These public posts may come back to haunt you when looking for your next career.

5) **Privacy settings.** Beyond each post, are you aware if your account can be found in a google search? This is a security setting that you can control on the settings of some of the more popular social media services. Turning this off will prevent your account from showing up if some stranger tries searching similar names. Additionally, you can change the settings to prevent unknown people from adding you to their friend's list.

6) **Delete apps you don't use.** If you don't use it, lose it. Many phones now will let you delete the app, or disable it at the least. Not only will this clear up some memory space, but it will limit your exposure to apps that may be invading your privacy. Each mobile device has different steps for how to remove apps, so be sure to look up the correct way for your device.

Now that you are an expert in social media security… SHOUT OUT TO US! Let us know your top five social media tips by tweeting us or mentioning us on FB!

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