Facebook Safety 101

Overview

Facebook has become an integral part of many people's daily lives. It allows us to stay in touch with friends and relatives irrespective of where we live. Unfortunately, using facebook can also expose us to various risks. The following seven rules can help you stay safe whilst using facebook.

Facebook Safety Rules

1. Never add unnecessary personal details to your profile

   Identity theft is one of the biggest problems of the digital age. Never provide any personals details you do not absolutely "have to" on any online forum. If you "have to" add your birthdate, at least do not share the year in which you were born!

2. Use a strong password

   A good password should contain UPPER and lower case alphabetic characters, numbers, and some special characters. Try using the first letter of every word in a sentence combined with a few "twists" like using the last word in full.

   For example: My name is Bob and I like to eat = MniBaIl2e@t.

3. Configure privacy settings

   Do not leave the privacy settings for facebook set to the default options, rather configure it to disclose as little about you as possible. Never allow people to "tag" you in photos without your approval.

4. Accept only real friends and family as facebook contacts

   If a business associate wants to connect with you, rather invite them to link to your Linked-In account.

5. Don't post negative comments, "rants", or derogatory remarks

   Many prospective employers nowadays look at your facebook history to help judge your character. Make sure your history reflects how you would like the world to see you.

6. Don't tell the world where you are

   Everything you post on facebook should be considered public knowledge. Do you really want the thieves who are online to know when you are not at home?

7. Beware of Apps

   *Many facebook apps share your information with 3rd parties. Only allow access to your information to sources you are **sure** you can trust.*