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Profile privacy? Yeah, right...

FACEBOOK CAN BE a great way to connect with friends, classmates or people from across the world. However, there's a dark side, too. By clicking 'agree' to these websites' privacy policies, you're actually giving up more about yourself then you know. Owen Thomas, managing editor of Valleywag, Silicon Valley's premier gossip blog, has covered Facebook's privacy policy extensively and offers some analysis about the site. -BRENDAN HILLIARD

Your information can be sold to third parties.

Facebook's privacy policy states, "Facebook may use information in your profile without identifying you as an individual to third parties." Third parties – or groups not affiliated with Facebook, often work with Facebook to sell their products or services. This means that the website can disclose your personal information to tailor advertising and products to you. "The reality is that absolutely no one besides reporters looking for a story and privacy activists looking for publicity reads [the privacy policy]," says Thomas.

Watch what you do with your photos. Facebook may be an

easy way to share pictures from a recent trip or a day at school by uploading your pictures to the site; it may not just be your friends who are seeing them. "[Facebook] has very bad security around it's photos; they claim to respect user's wishes in keeping the files restricted to their friends, but in practice, it's simple to get around them. Yet, Facebook is one of the top photo-sharing sites on the Internet," says Thomas. Websites like Flickr (flickr.com) allow for tighter security by selecting certain users that can view your photos, or password protecting them altogether. "I'd argue that it's not a priority for Facebook's users, either," says Thomas. "You see, time and again, cases where they

don't make use of the privacy options Facebook offers."

Deleting something on your profile doesn't actually 'delete' it.

Directly under the "Changing or Removing Information" section on Facebook's Privacy policy page, it says, "Removed information may persist in backup copies for a reasonable period of time but will not be generally available to members of Facebook." Even you don't see your information anymore, Facebook still does. "That suggests to me that Facebook's point of view on privacy is entirely pragmatic -- they know they have to make the right noises about it, lest they be excoriated by privacy activists, but they also know it's not really that important for their users," says Thomas.

Always stay up to date and informed. The website's privacy policy is subject to change at any time. At the top of the page, the website updates the most recent changes to the site. Limiting the amount

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of information a user puts on Facebook is an effective way of protecting themselves. "A popular social-networking site like Facebook or MySpace could make whatever claims they want to about their lack of responsibility for protecting users' privacy, and kids would use the sites anyway -- as long as their friends were on them, too," he says.

Move Event n.--A noteworthy happening. Event n.—A place where nothing

happens.

Search

Applications

photos

VIDeos

Groups

Events Notes

Facebook | Francesca Molesta

Profile edit Frienos

ADD Francesca

VIEW Francesca

SEND Francesca

OPOKE Francesca

Friends in other Networks

Report-this person

SEND a gift

IN

Poke v.—To urge or stir by prodding or jabbing; to interpose or interiect in a meddlesome manner.

Poke v.—Electronic notifications of no particular importance that interrupt your train of thought.

Friend n.—One attached to another by affection or esteem; one that is of the same nation, party or group.

Friend n.—Someone who has agreed to share photos and personal information with you, in spite of the fact that you may never have met.



Chicago Maybe Birthdafe! Someday 1, 1987

SEEAL

Status n.—A position or rank in relation to others.

less up-to-theminute updates on your life that nobody cares about.

Profile n.—A representation of something seen in outline; a set of data often in graphic form portraying the significant features of something.

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Profile n.—The place you display fictional information about who you wish you were.

Vesterday

Neva Ferer

XOC

SEX:

Francesca and gabe are friends Francesco and Eric are friends Francesca and TON are friends September 27,

Francesca and Matt are friends I popul Francesca and Blair are friends. 1230 pm Francesca and lyle are friends. 1200 pm Francesca joins chicago Network. 1030 20 Frencesca joins Facebook.

EDUCATION and Work

EDUCATION college: High School: Elementary Work Info

School Hoard Knocke

Employer: Ratso Rizzo



THE WAL

SHARE

BETTY HEREDIA



Status n.—Point-

Facebook nation Echo's lexicographers* have got you covered

SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES have spawned a new dialect. Echo asked its friend Merriam-Webster to remind us what some key terms used to mean. In return, Echo offers the following updates to Merriam-Webster:

Gift n.—Something voluntarily transferred from one person to another without compensation.

Gift n.—A way for your cheap friends to honor your birthday without shopping or wrapping anything for you. It's not the thought that counts.

Application n.—A program (as a word processor or a spreadsheet) that performs one of the major tasks for which a computer is used.

Application n.—Time wasting games that you can virally spread to your friends like the flu.

* Lexicographer (definitely not found on Facebook) **n.** An author or editor of a dictionary. -YONI DOWNS

Group n.—A number of individuals assembled together or having some unifying relationship.

Group n.—People you've never met and with whom you have little or nothing in common except your membership in the group.

Wall n.—A high, thick masonry structure forming a long rampart or an enclosure chiefly for defense.

Wall n.—A virtual bulletin board where friends can respond to your compulsive updates.

Photo Album. A mix of: Photograph n.—A picture or likeness obtained by photography. and album n. —A book with blank pages used for making a collection.

Photo album n.—An electronic flip book broadcasting your least presentable moments. A far cry from the family memories we used to carefully lay next to each other, these drunken cries and nipple slips are sometimes the first thing we show to our new 'friends.'