Dan’s Basic Guide to Keeping Your Stuff Private on Facebook
A guide for teenagers, parents & teachers.

Every aspect of Facebook is designed to connect you to prospective advertisers, businesses and market researchers. Whilst this may have some benefits, this uber-connectivity can have many drawbacks and your privacy can be eroded without you even realising.

Assuming you’d like to retain a little ownership of your identity, I’ve put together this basic guide to keeping your stuff private on Facebook.

How many ‘friends’ do you have?

You’ll notice I only have 162 friends… and I’m 37! Yes I know… I’m obviously a loser!

Amongst those 162, I then decide who are my ‘close’ friends, and who are ‘acquaintances’ (these are people you know, but don’t really know what they’re like.) You’ll see why this is important later on.

Most of your 400+ ‘friends’ would actually be acquaintances.

How do I change my security/privacy settings?

One of the smallest icons on Facebook is the security icon. You’ll find it in the top right hand corner of your Facebook page.

When you click it you’ll get three options.

Who can see my stuff?

Who can contact me?

How do I stop someone bothering me?
Who can see my stuff?

Here you can decide just who gets to read your updates.

Remember when you decided who were friends or acquaintances?

You should really think twice as to whether you want everyone on your friend list to see what you’re posting... and I’d really urge you not to post publicly.

You can also choose to only allow your ‘close’ friends to see what you post.

Who can contact me?

To try and stop anonymous trolling or cyberbullying, set your inbox to only allow messages from friends.

With regard to friend requests, it is currently set so that everyone in the world can send you friend requests.

The best you can do here is set it to only friends of friends.
How do I stop someone from bothering me?

From time to time, you may want to **BLOCK** someone. This is different from unfriending them. This permanently stops them from contacting you. You can do this by adding their name, or their email here.

Other Security Settings...

By clicking on the **GEAR ICON HERE**, you can enhance a whole heap of your settings.

I recommend you consider only allowing (at best) your friends to post on your timeline. If you can’t be sure they won’t post inappropriate stuff, then set it to ‘Only me.’
And finally, there are some other features to prevent people from hacking your account.

You can set these on the security tab.

I’d recommend ensuring that the following are enabled:
Secure Browsing
Login Notifications
Login Approvals

These will alert you if there is any dodgy activity on your account.

More details on Facebook Privacy...

You can access all of Facebook’s privacy information by going to:

http://haz.la/fbprivacy101

REMEMBER:

Facebook continually updates it’s privacy settings - usually back to public as default.
You should check at least once a month.
Also remember to check that your phone app has the same security settings as your computer.