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Download Facebook, Read All About... You.



Facebook has continued its long tradition of taking all your data and using it as they see fit until they're called on it. By the time you read this, Mark Zuckerberg will be on his way to testify to Congress. My opinion has not changed from day one: Give Facebook NOTHING that you would not want published on a permanent billboard, used to target advertising, or used to influence others. There's a statement that applies, from the 1970's: "If you aren't paying for the product, you are the product." No full-page newspaper ads from Mark Zuckerberg are going to convince me that their business model has evolved.

If your Facebook profile included the app "This is Your Digital Life," then your information was collected and probably sold by Cambridge Analytica, and possibly used to influence the 2016 election. That app and website has now been banned by Facebook. You can and should look in Facebook, Settings, Apps and Websites, to see what connections and apps are listed. Delete any you don't know or no longer want by checking the box, and then clicking the 'Remove' button.

If you have an Android phone that includes the Facebook Messenger ap (on many carrier-locked phones), your call and text history is probably on Facebook's computers, and available for purchase, either "in the aggregate" so as to provide statistical data, or as "signals" that provide advertisers filtering options for deciding which ads to send you.

More here: <https://thehackernews.com/2018/03/facebook-android-data.html>

Interesting: Facebook Messenger uploads your phone contacts to 'make it easier to connect'.

You can (should) download your Facebook archive to see what they admit to knowing about

you. Here's how:

1. Click at the top right of any Facebook page and select Settings
2. Click Download a copy of your Facebook data at the bottom of General Account Settings
3. Click Start My Archive

But is that archive complete? No, it's not, nor is it correct. Here's the current list of what they say they know; assume that they target advertising based on all of it.

<https://www.facebook.com/help/405183566203254>

Once you download that file, double-click the zip file to look inside. There is an index page; click that, and it will show a category list. The archive is well-formatted, and easy to browse from that index.

And of course, much of it is fake news. According to my download, I am:

- A CPA (No, I install accounting software, and troubleshoot it, but if you ask me the difference between a debit and a credit, I will answer, accurately: 'location, location, location')
- A customer of Vons (No, I don't shop for groceries in California)
- An eBay of Germany user (Nope. Might have found a search result there once.)

What to do? The reasonable choices include closing your accounts, as Elon Musk (of Tesla and SpaceX) has done:

<https://www.space.com/40073-elon-musk-deletes-spacex-tesla-facebook.html>

Or, use with extreme caution. There is no such thing as a private conversation on social media. Posting vacation plans on Facebook is approximately equivalent to putting up a sign that says "Empty House, Nobody Home!" Answering a nostalgia survey that includes questions like "What was your first car?" is basically handing over answers to security questions to some company that will make them available to hackers for a fee. More here, at Krebs On Security:

<https://krebsonsecurity.com/2018/04/dont-give-away-historic-details-about-yourself/>

Orbitz Account or AmexTravel? Hacked.



If you have a login at Orbitz.com or AmexTravel.com, your personal information was likely to have been hacked. Short version: Purchase data including credit cards, dates of birth, and contact information were taken from transactions in 2016 and nearly all of 2017. Two years of free credit monitoring is available for AmexTravel customers, more here:

<http://about.americanexpress.com/news/pr/2018/amex-statement-orbitz.aspx>

I could find no report of Orbitz making this announcement, or Orbitz' owner, Expedia, or of Expedia's owner, Microsoft, taking responsibility. It's generally bad when there's a three-month lag time between the end of the breach and the announcement date, and so far, Orbitz has been silent. As always, don't do business with amateurs.

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