

# Facebook Users Revolt, Facebook Replies

Join  
TechCrunch+  
Login

Michael Arrington  
@arrington?lang=en / 6:23 PM GMT+10 • September 6, 2006

There has been an overwhelmingly negative public response to Facebook's new products yesterday. The products, called News Feed and Mirroring, are a quick view of what their friends are up to, including relationship changes, pictures uploaded, etc., in a streaming news format.

Many tens of thousands of Facebook users are not happy with the changes. Frank Gruber notes a group has been formed called "Students Against Facebook News Feed". A commenter in our previous article is closing in on 100,000 members as of 9:33 PM PST, less than a day after the new features were launched. Hundreds of other Facebook groups calling for a removal of the new features.

A site calling to boycott Facebook on September 12 has also been put up, as well as a petition to remove the new features. Other sites are popping up as well. There seems to be no counterbalancing group or effort to support the changes.

Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg has responded personally, saying "Calm down. We didn't take away any privacy options."

I gave the new features a thumbs up yesterday and stick by my review. No new information is about users. Facebook privacy settings remain in their previous state, meaning you can have your information throughout the network or just among your closest friends. Don't want a particular piece of information out even to them? Remove any single piece of data by simply clicking the "x" button next to it a news feed.

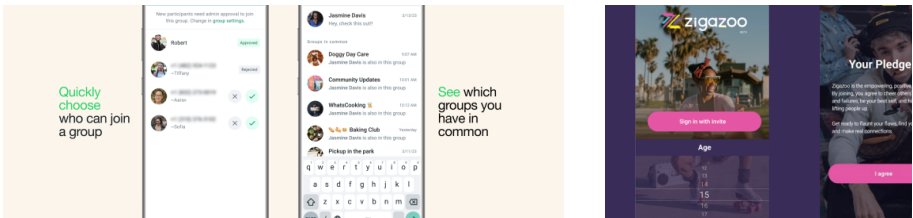
If this feature had been part Facebook since the beginning, their users would be screaming if Facebook removed it. It's a powerful way to quickly get lots of information about people you care about, with easy set privacy information for privacy reasons. No one can see anything that they couldn't see yesterday. It's just efficient.

I also applaud Facebook for launching a product clearly designed to reduce total page views in forcing users to go to their friends pages for updates. That shows serious long term vision and commitment to facilitating communication among its users.

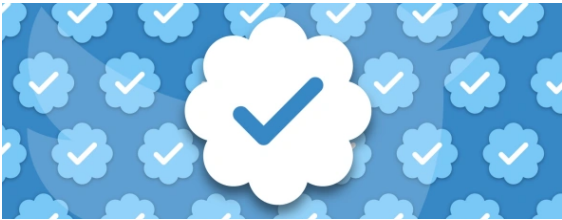
An easy fix to the problem is for Facebook to simply make each of the new products optional. Facebook will quickly find that they are falling out of the attention stream, and I suspect will quickly add them back.

Search 🔍  
TechCrunch+  
Startups  
Venture  
Security  
AI  
Crypto  
Apps  
Events  
More

## More TechCrunch



Building a startup or looking for your next deal? We have you covered.



[Join  
TechCrunch+](#)

[Login](#)

Search 🔍

- TechCrunch+
- Startups
- Venture
- Security
- AI
- Crypto
- Apps
- Events
- More

April 20, 2023 Boston, MA

[Register Now](#)

### Sign up for Newsletters

See all newsletters

- ☐ Daily
- ☐ Week in Review
- ☐ Startups Weekly
- ☐ Event Updates
- ☐ Advertising Updates
- ☐ TechCrunch+ Announcements
- ☐ TechCrunch+ Events
- ☐ TechCrunch+ Roundup

Email \*

### Tags