

## Have YOU used your partner's Facebook account? Study finds 1 in 5 adults admit to accessing others' social media without permission

- Study finds 1 in 5 US adults have snooped through someone else's Facebook
- Reasons were curiosity or fun, but others did it because of jealousy or animosity
- Partners looking because of jealousy would spend at least 15 mins on account
- Perpetrators also reported using the victim's own device or computer

By [STACY LIBERATORE FOR DAILYMIL.COM](#)

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While many worry about hackers accessing their [Facebook](#) account, a new study suggests users should be more concerned about the people closest to them.

One in five adults, or 24 percent, have snooped through their friend's, romantic partner's or family member's account – and used the victim's own device to do so, reveals a new survey.

The guilty parties admitted they spied on others out of simple curiosity or fun – but other motives were darker, such as jealousy or animosity.

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**Researchers have found that one in five adults, or 24 percent, have snooped through their friend's, romantic partner's or family member's account – and used the victim's own device to do so**

A survey consisting of 1,308 US adults was recently conducted by the University of British Columbia.

'It's clearly a widespread practice. Facebook private messages, pictures or videos are easy targets when the account owner is already logged on and has left their computer or mobile open for viewing,' said Wali Ahmed Usmani, study author and computer science master's student.

Those whose motive was 'fun' only wanted to access someone else's account to play a prank on the victim, such as changing their profile picture.

And the team notes that this type of attack is done without premeditated malicious intent.

'In such attacks victims were either family

## WHY WE SNOOP

Those who have snooped on other people's Facebook accounts admitted it was for different reasons - curiosity, fun, jealousy or animosity.

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And the team notes that this type of attack is done without premeditated malicious intent.

Curiosity was assigned as the primary motive in cases where the perpetrator was curious about content on the victim's Facebook without a predetermined emotional foundation to the intent.

Snooping through their partner's Facebook out of jealousy lasted for



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members or friends of the perpetrator, and the attack was exclusively opportunistic,' researchers wrote in the published [study](#).

'Prank attacks were short in length, and used impersonation.'

'Perpetrators targeted highly visible parts of their victim's Facebook account such as the profile picture or status updates.

'They changed these to what the perpetrator perceived to be funny.

Curiosity was assigned as the primary motive in cases where the perpetrator was curious about content on the victim's Facebook without a predetermined emotional foundation to the intent.

more than 15 minutes and most of the focus was on personal messages.

And the final attack, animosity, was done to hurt the victim.

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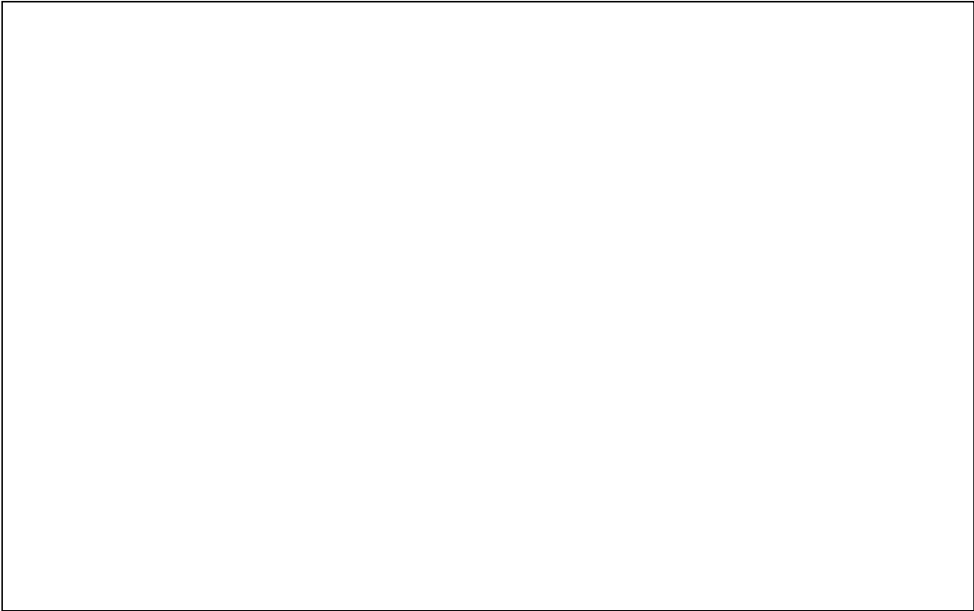


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And this type of attack was found to happen to all three types of people – friends, family and romantic partners.

However, what the perpetrator was looking for or at, depended on the relationship to the victim.

'Romantically involved individuals targeted private messages only, while family and friends snooped on the profile, photos, and public and private social interactions,' reads the study.



The guilty parties admitted they spied on others out of simple curiosity or fun – but other motives were darker, such as jealousy or animosity. Jealously was found to be the most popular story heard among the participants in the study

Jealous and animosity attacks on the other hand are not always done with good

intentions and are usually premeditated.

In all of the cases researchers analyzed, the victim and perpetrator were romantic partners and often co-habiting.

The team found that attacks motivated by jealousy were likely to be premeditated and opportunistic.

Snooping through their partner's Facebook account lasted for more than 15 minutes and most of the focus was on personal messages.

And the final attack, animosity, was done to hurt the victim.

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## FACEBOOK MAKES YOU HAPPY

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Personal interactions on the site can have a major impact on a person's well-being and satisfaction with life - just as much as getting married or having a baby, according to a new study. The study, conducted by Carnegie Mellon University and Facebook researchers, showed personalized posts and comments make people happier. The study was based on 1,910 Facebook users from 91 countries.

Each agreed to take a monthly survey for three months and to have their responses combined with de-identified counts of their Facebook behavior from the month before each survey.

Sixty comments from close friends within one month were enough to increase users' psychological well-being as much as major life events.

Personal interactions on Facebook can have a major impact on a person's well-being and satisfaction with life - just as much as getting married or having a baby.

Simpler interactions such as 'likes' do not have the same effect.

People feel good when those they know and care about write personalized posts or comments, the researchers have said.

This can be a comment that's just a sentence or two. The important thing is that someone such as a close friend takes the time to personalize it.

'This ranged from deleting the victim's data, diminishing the victim's social standing by impersonating them, and performing other disreputable actions with the victim's account that were visible to others,' explained the researchers.

'In these cases, the perpetrators had a spectrum of relationships with their victims, ranging from very close (ex-romantic partners), to far apart (co-workers).'

The findings highlight the ineffectiveness of passwords and device PINs in stopping unauthorized access by insiders, added electrical and computer engineering professor Kosta Beznosov, the paper's other senior author.

'There's no single best defense--though a combination of changing passwords regularly, logging out of your account and other security practices can definitely help,' said Beznosov.

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