Privacy on Facebook and Interdependency

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JEG LEGGER TIL NOE HER! Since Facebook was introduced to the public in 2006, it has grown to be the largest online social network (OSN) in the world. OSNs have a peer-to-peer architecture, and therefore makes it easy for members to initiate communication with whom they want, given that they are also connected to the network. OSNs also enables the possibility for people to easily publish and retrieve information about subjects of interest [1]. The growth of Facebook has made it necessary to introduce new ways to manage privacy and ensure a secure online environment. When it comes to OSNs the privacy embedded in the program/app etc. is not enough to ensure such an environment, due to the interdependent privacy issues. Your privacy is to a large extent affected by the privacy decision of others. In this chapter we are going to look into the history of Facebook's privacy settings, and map the development from 2006 until today.

Figure 1.1: The Facebook Icon

Facebook has evolved from being a networking site for students attending Harvard to becoming a global phenomenon. Facebook's user interface has gone through several changes over the years, which has brought both joy and frustration to the users. When these changes have been made, there has also been adjustments to the default privacy settings as well [2]. At the beginning, in 2005, when Facebook first was applied outside of Harvard University, the users personal information was only accessible to a users Facebook friends and to people connected to the same network on Facebook [3].

To emphasize the changes made to the default privacy settings, we have put the largest changes in the table below.

Year	Default Privacy Settings
2005	Your personal information is only accessible for Thefacebook users that are members of at least one of the groups you have specified in your privacy settings.
2006	Control over privacy settings is given to the user. By default, the only thing that is available for everyone to see is information about school and specified local area.
2007	Profile information on Facebook is accessible to the Facebook users who is a member of at least one of the networks you have given access to in your privacy settings (e.g., schools, friends, friends of friends). Name, name of school and profile picture (thumbnail) is available in search results by default.
November 2009	You are given freedom to share what to want with whom you want to share it with by editing the privacy settings. Sharing is divided into different groups, e.g. "everyone", "friends", "friends of friends". Certain types of information is shared with "everyone" by default. Information set to "everyone" is information that is public and available not only to everyone on Facebook, but also to people not logged into Facebook. Every user on Facebook should review their privacy settings, and change the default settings if necessary.
December 2009	Public information is name, profile picture, gender, friend list, pages you are a fan of, where you live and networks you are connected to. Since this information is considered public, there is no privacy settings connected to it. The only thing you can do to prevent people from seeing this information is to edit your search privacy settings. This way you you make it harder for people to find the information through searching.
April 2010	Hei Esther. Dette har jeg endra nå.

Discussion

Conclusion

References

[1] Alessandro Acquisti, Stefanos Gritzalis, Costas Lambrinoudakis, and Sabrina De Capitani di Vimercati, editors. *Digital Privacy: Theory, Technologies, and Practices*. Auerbach, 2008.

[2] Michael C. The evolution of privacy on facebook, 2011. Last checked: 30.09.2013.

[3] Matt McKeon. The evolution of privacy on facebook, 2010. Last checked: 26.09.2013.