Privacy on Facebook and Interdependency

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Introduction

1.1 Online Social Networks

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.

Figure 1.1: The Facebook Icon

1.2 Interdependent Privacy

1.3 The History of Facebook

It all started in October 2003 when the Harvard sophomore Mark Zuckerberg and three of his classmates created the web page facesmash. Zuckerberg hacked into the administrative database to extract the ID photos of all the students. The web page presented two and two photos creating a "hot or not" game for his fellow students. Within the first hou facesmash had 450 visitors and 22 000 photo-views. [5].

1.4 Amazon Mechanical Turk

Chapter 2
Default Privacy Settings

2.1   Default Privacy Settings

In this chapter we are going to look into the history of Facebook's privacy settings, and map the development from 2006 until today.

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].

The changes to the default privacy settings are emphasized in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1: Changes in the default privacy settings on Facebook from 2005 until today. [3, 4]

Year	Default Privacy Settings
2005	Personal information (e.g., name and profile picture) is only visible to specific groups specified in your privacy settings.
2006	The only information displayed in your profile is your school and specified local area.
2007	Name, name of school (network) and profile picture (thumbnail) is available to all Facebook users.
November 2009	Name, profile picture and demographics is available and searchable to the entire Internet. In addition to this, list of friends are visible to all Facebook users.
December 2009	Your name, profile picture, list of friends, pages you are fan of, demographics and likes are available for the entire Internet.
April 2010	The entire Internet can see everything, except wall posts that are limited to friends and photos that are limited to your network.
2011	
2012	
2013	

Discussion

Conclusion

References

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