How to permanently delete a Facebook account.  
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**1.0 Introduction.**

Facebook makes it clear in its Terms of Service that you are surrendering ownership rights to the intellectual property (i.e., your updates and photos) that you upload to the platform. This has in recent years seen an increasing number of users drop their Facebook accounts.

However, the process of permanently deleting your account is anything but intuitive. This report lays out all the details that you may need in order to delete your Facebook account for good.

**2.1 Log in to Facebook.**

You can't completely delete your account without logging in to Facebook first. If you could, it would be much easier for people with malicious intent to delete unwitting users' Facebook accounts. To begin the process of account deletion, visit Facebook.com and provide your login info as you normally would.

**2.2 Save any data you need.**

Before you delete your account, save anything from your account that there is chance you will need later. Depending on your needs, this may include contact information, photos, personal profile content, and more. You will lose access to all of this when you delete your account, so now is your chance to make a backup of any important data.

If there's only a few things you need to save, you may want to save the data manually — for instance, copying important text to a word document and downloading any pictures by clicking the Download link at the bottom when you open them.

On the other hand, if there's a lot of data you want to save or you are unsure, you may want to download a copy of all of your Facebook data. You can do this using the Settings menu. From your main profile page, click the downward-pointing triangle in the very top right of the page, then click "Settings". On the Settings menu, click the small link that says “Download a copy of your Facebook data”. Follow the prompts to verify your identity and begin your download.

**2.3 Clear your Facebook history if desired.**

Next, you may want to undo some or all of your previous actions on Facebook, such as comments you've made, especially if they include personal information. Account deletion doesn't occur immediately — a waiting period of 14 days must pass before your account (and the contributions associated with it) are gone for good. So, if there's anything you want to disappear immediately, you may want to manually delete it now. Note, however, that some activity, like the personal messages you send to others, can't be deleted.

It's easy to delete lots of your history at once with the Activity Log. To access the Activity Log, click the Privacy button in the top-right corner (it looks like a padlock next to three horizontal lines). Select “See More Settings”. On the next page, click the "Use Activity Log" link. Here, you can delete pieces of your activity by clicking the small pencil icon next to each and selecting "Delete".

**2.4 Visit the "Delete Account" page.**

This page, which allows you to permanently delete your account, isn't easy to find. It cannot be accessed through Facebook normally — you have to search for it on a search engine or look it up on Facebook's help page, Facebook.com/help.

A small window should pop up asking you to enter your account password and provide the letters in the random CAPTCHA image to prove that you're human. Once you have entered these, press “Okay” to schedule your account for permanent deletion.

**2.5 Wait 14 days.**

Once you complete the account deletion process, your account is immediately deactivated. This means that your timeline immediately disappears from the site and other users are no longer able to search for you. However, your account isn't permanently deleted for 14 days. During this time, if you log in to your account, you'll have the option to restore it. After the 14 days have passed, your account is permanently deleted and cannot be recovered by any means, so if you're having second thoughts, act fast!

If you're positive that you want your account permanently deleted, no further action is required on your part. Simply wait 14 days without logging in and your account will be gone for good.

**3.0 Conclusion**

While permanent deletion will delete almost everything about your account, certain things will remain even after your account is deleted. Most importantly, deleting your account won't delete the personal messages that you've sent to other users. Though these users won't be able to search for you, if they manually scroll through the messages in their inbox, they can still see the messages you've sent. However, the message will be labelled with the greyed out name "Facebook User" (rather than your name) and the profile picture will be set to the default silhouette.

In addition, it's worth noting that, while your account may be gone, Facebook retains the right to keep certain types of information even after your account is deleted. Certain types of data, like photos, are deleted from Facebook's servers soon after the account is deleted.

**4.0 Recommendation**

If you opt to permanently delete your Facebook account, please keep in mind that you won't be able to reactivate your account or retrieve anything you've added. Thus it’s always wise to download a copy of your info from Facebook.