# Social Networking

The following properties can be added and edited via this container:-

* Twitter URL
* Twitter followers
* Twitter name
* Facebook URL
* Facebook followers
* Facebook name
* LinkedIn URL
* LinkedIn followers
* LinkedIn Company ID

## URL checking

The URL can be checked by clicking the relevant “Check” button, this will open up the URL page in a separate browser tab.

## Automatically obtaining followers

The number of followers can be obtained by clicking the relevant “Ping” button, this will contact the social network and query the relevant API using the name/company id property that has been input into the container.

## Further notes

The social networking API’s used to obtain the number of followers have some form of “fair usage” policy which throttles the number of pings over a given time period. Thus it may be necessary to restrict a vendor to e.g. 5 attempts to obtain their number of followers. The main reason for implementing this ping functionality was for the vendor to ensure he/she had entered the correct name/company id. The existing functionality in the UX will also ping the Social Networking API if a user visits their shop and there has not been a ping for over 24 hours, so the pinging functionality of the VX should not really be seen as an absolute requirement to store the number of followers, but more to ensure they have entered the correct name/company id which is what the UX ultimately relies on to ensure that their shop contains an up-to-date tally of the vendor’s followers.