

How to Survive.....



Networking in Facebook

What's all the fuss about?

Social networking sites are HUGE and still growing in popularity and functionality. So much so that around 2/3 of uni students have an online profile in either Facebook or MySpace (US data from collegewebeditor.com)

Getting started

This is really quite easy. Go to www.facebook.com and follow the steps to register. Once you've registered your account, you can upload a picture, create a profile (where you went to school, where you live etc) and start adding friends (search for people you know or browse the friend lists of your friends!)

Jargon – useful terms to be aware of!

- Code-switching – using different language/tone depending on who you're talking to
- Context collision - hard to find a way to communicate with people from different areas of your life all at the same time
- Lurking – observing others' content but never/rarely contributing your own
- Creeping – building your friend list by contacting people you don't know
- Flaming - overreacting to something and posting very aggressive comments online
- Hyperpersonal - thinking you know someone better than you actually do after interacting with them online
- The Wall – a FB feature (bulletin board type thing) where other people post messages for you
- Status Updates – tell people what you're doing at the moment

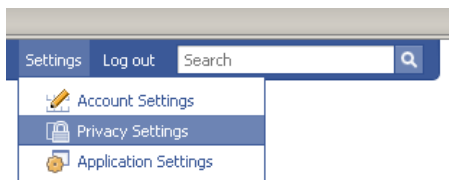
UWA and Facebook

Student Services hosts the 'UWA Students' Facebook fan page and it's easy to join. Just search for 'UWA Students' in the Facebook search box or go straight to www.facebook.com/UWAsStudents. There are also hundreds of UWA Groups in Facebook – run by student clubs, colleges, staff, alumni associations and other interest groups as well as thousands of individual members who are part of the UWA network. Joining groups can improve your networking, get you invited to events and provide an opportunity to form friendships and links that can last for years – you can bring together your uni, social and work lives in an online environment (see tips on privacy below!).

Make sure you use your common sense in what you post online and follow the Facebook [Terms of Use](#) (User Conduct) and [Code of Conduct](#)! Bear in mind that UWA IT policies will apply while using UWA computers, the UWA network or a UWA staff or student account so Statute 17 (on misconduct) will apply in those circumstances. (You may want to consider using an alternative email address to register if you want to keep your UWA email for uni use only.)

Privacy issues

Connecting with people online is all about sharing info about yourself but it is SO important to use a bit of common sense about who sees what. More and more employers are searching the internet for information about applicants. Plus does Grandma really need to see photos from Friday's party that your mates uploaded? So you might like to think about:



- Using the <Friend List> function to control which friends (and groups of friends) have access to which parts of your profile
- Controlling who sees photos of you who can see photos you are tagged in
- Preventing your FB profile showing up in a Google search

The more you browse your privacy settings the more you'll understand your options. Other choices you can make are to control which updates appear in news feeds and to hide your real-life contact info.

Managing your Study and Online lives

We've all been there – fallen into a Facebook time trap when we should be writing an essay, reading a pile of papers or revising for exams. If you're using FB as a procrastination tool then you need to recognise when you are killing time and take appropriate action! You might like to try:

- Use lock-out software to keep you focussed. Try <http://keepmeout.com/>
- Get your FB alerts sent to a separate email address than the one you regularly use. It can be very tempting to see numerous FB alerts in your inbox!
- Consider giving yourself 10 mins on FB for every 50 you study – literally set a timer with an alarm!
- Use Facebook for what it was designed for – setting up teamwork meetings, starting a group and hosting a discussion

Being a good FB-er

You don't need to know all the techie stuff to be a good friend on FB – after all it's about human connections so bear these tips in mind:

- If you want people to write on your wall (and comment on your photos, wish you happy birthday etc) then you have to do the same on theirs (just like in real-life!)
- Keep the spam to a minimum – not everyone wants to play tetris, collect eggs and take movie quizzes all the time!
- Don't say things on a wall that really belong in a 1:1 email
- Use your proper name and try to occasionally use a profile picture of your face! (photos of your pet, baby or favourite sunset frustrate people who are trying to track you down)
- Don't ask someone to be your friend if you don't know them or haven't been introduced to them (see definition of 'creeping' above)
- Avoid drunken Facebooking. No! no! no!

Other useful resources:

Survival Guides – Avoiding Procrastination (SS2.5) available in the Resource Area or www.studysmarter.uwa.edu.au
<http://www.allfacebook.com/> - unofficial guide to Facebook

www.studysmarter.uwa.edu.au,

Email: study.smarter@uwa.edu.au,

Ph: (08) 6488 2423.

Visit Student Services – 2nd Floor Guild Building



We are happy for LLRS resources to be used, but please do not amend them, do not remove STUDY Smarter or UWA logos, and give credit/reference to the STUDY Smarter team where necessary.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA