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Web hosting articles for smart webmasters

Webhosting, website management and other topics of interest for webmasters covered

How to Disappear Online

Social media has made everyone's life an open book (one that's open a bit too far in some cases). As more and more companies and individuals come to rely on the Internet as a primary source of information about others, so too does the possibility of compromising info reaching the wrong person grow.

For folks concerned about their personal information potentially costing them jobs and relationships, or for those dealing with the harsh realities of social media fallout, the decision to "pull the plug" is an increasingly attractive one. And while it might seem impossible to keep your private life private and your Internet presence to a minimum in a 24/7 connected world, the truth is you can disappear online with a little effort and dedication.

The first step to keeping a low profile online is (as you may expect) to stop using social media sites and delete your accounts. If you're confused about where to start, sites such as JustDelete.Me offer links and tips to help you get the process moving (and whether it is actually possible to delete your account at all). To remove information that's been gathered about, rather than posted by, you, you may want to consider the similarly-named DeleteMe. This service promises to scan popular data collection sites and remove your personal contact information and photos, generating a report every three months to keep you updated on what's been removed.

Pulling the plug on social media and removing any compromising or personal data is a great start, but unless you're planning on abandoning the Internet altogether, these steps are just the beginning. In order to maintain your new-found anonymity, you must master reputation management, learn to use dummy accounts, and take advantage of anonymous searching. This might seem like a lot of effort, but it sure beats waiting for the Eraser.

Disappearing from the Internet isn't for everyone. But if you're serious about your privacy, your security, and your reputation, taking the time to make yourself invisible online is worth the time and trouble.

HOW TO DISAPPEAR ONLINE

The Internet has made it possible for personal details to be a quick search term away.

From prospective jobs to prospective partners, there are some parts of our lives we don't want published on the Internet. So restore your online dignity and take back your digital identity with the following steps.

Greatest Hits

How to Disappear Online

19,642 views

Seven Insane Employee Perks at Tech Companies

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Internet Censorship Around the Globe

4,625 views

Everything You Need to Know on TOR & the Deep Web

4,190 views

Secrets of a Killer Blog Post: Content

3,129 views

Top hosts

bluehost — Blue Host Hosting

★★★★★ 98 reviews »

hub webhostinghub.com — HUB Hosting

★★★★★ 75 reviews »

inmotion hosting — InMotion Hosting
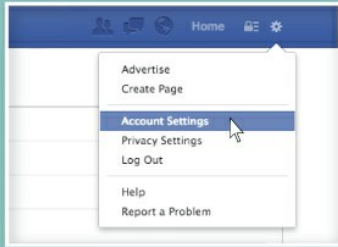
★★★★★ 22 reviews »

STEP ONE

DEACTIVATE PRIMARY ACCOUNTS

Begin deleting the profiles that you know exist.

FACEBOOK

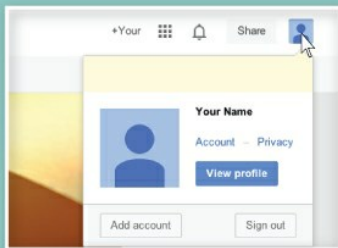Go to your **Account Settings**

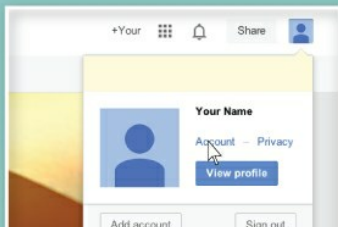Click **Security**

Select **Deactivate your account**
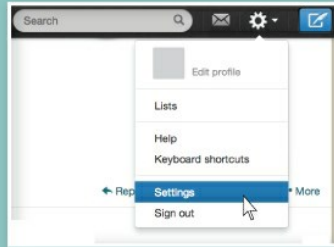
To permanently delete your account, **contact the Facebook staff**
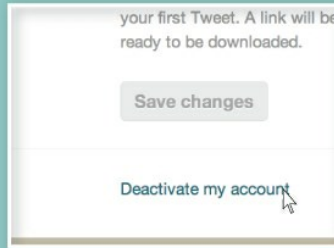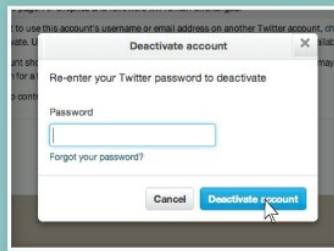
TWITTER

Go to your **Account Settings**

At the bottom of the page, click on **Deactivate my Account**

Twitter will prompt you to **enter your password**

GOOGLE +

Click on the image in the upper right-hand corner of the screen
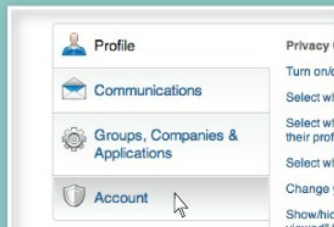
Go to **Account**

LINKEDIN

Go to the **Privacy & Settings** page

Click on **Account**

Click on **Delete profile and remove related Google+ features**

Go to **Helpful Links**
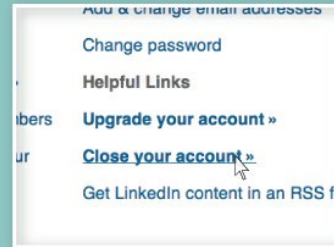
Storage Manage

0.2 GB (0%) of 30 GB used
Drive   0 GB
Gmail   0.2 GB
Google+ Photos   0 GB

Account Management

View and edit your account type (e.g. work account or p
Delete profile and remove related Google+ features.

Email & Password

Add & change email addresses

Change password

Helpful Links

Upgrade your account »

Close your account »

Get LinkedIn content in an RSS

Then, select **Remove selected**
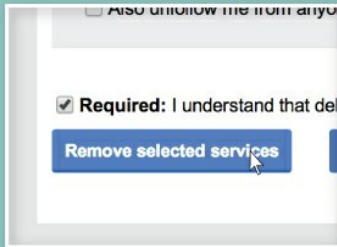
Click on **Close your account**

Also unfollow me from anyo

☑ **Required:** I understand that del

Remove selected services

Add & change email addresses

Change password

Helpful Links

Upgrade your account »

Close your account »

Get LinkedIn content in an RSS fe

STEP TWO

SEARCH FOR YOURSELF

Perhaps you have an account somewhere that you forgot about such as a Myspace, LiveJournal or another inactive blog. Use search engines to track down your old Web activity.
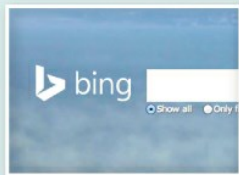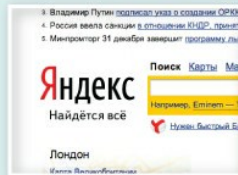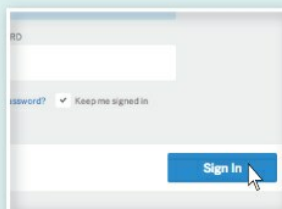
Google

Yahoo

Ask

Bing

Baidu (in China)

Yandex (in Russia)

Login to your old accounts

Facebook

Delete each account accordingly

TIP:

Forget your username or password? Every site has an option to retrieve each, just in case. Follow the steps to retrieve your login information via email.

Forgot password?

inkedIn

STEP THREE

FALSIFY UNDELETABLE ACCOUNTS

Did you ever want to change your name? Now you can.
Get creative! For the accounts that you are unable to
delete, post fake information.

Create a **false name**   Change **cities**   Create a **new life**

Enjoy your new alter ego!

STEP FOUR

UNSUBSCRIBE FROM MAILING LISTS

Collect all **email
newsletters**, **ads** and
promotions

Click the link at the bottom
of each of these emails that
says, **unsubscribe**

Follow the prompts to
take your email address
off of their mailing list

STEP FIVE

DELETE SEARCH ENGINE RESULTS

You can request search engines to delete results that return
information about you.

TIP:

Google has a URL removal tool to help you
with this process

STEP SIX

CONTACT WEBMASTERS

For websites that you have no control over you'll need to
personally contact the Webmaster.

Be **polite**   Be **patient**

Be ready! Some webmasters may argue that public
information should remain public.

STEP SEVEN

CONSIDER DATA CLEARINGHOUSES

There are companies that track your online behavior and sell that
data to other companies. Websites such as **Intelius**, **Spokeo** and
PeopleFinders are commonly used data clearinghouses. To delete
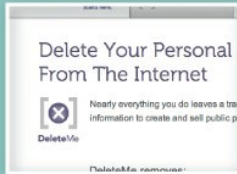your information from these sites, prepare to do the following.

Make an absurd amount
of **phone calls**

Fill out a metric tonne
of **paperwork**

Use a **fax machine**

Consider a paid service,
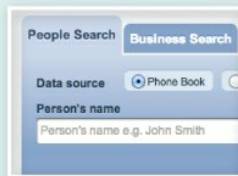such as **DeleteMe**, to do
all of the legwork

STEP EIGHT

CHECK IN WITH YOUR PHONE COMPANY

Some phone companies have your information listed online.
Ask your provider to make you **unlisted**.

STEP NINE

DELETE YOUR EMAIL

Leave this step until last just in case you need your email to
receive information regarding passwords and usernames
you might have forgotten.

Edit security info

Closing your Microso

Close account

Account Management

Control what happens to your account wh
Learn more and go to setup

View and edit your account type (e.g. wo
Delete profile and remove related Google
Close account and delete all services an

TIP:

Seek legal counsel
when it comes to
information that is
false or defamatory
to your character.

TIP:

**Check in with
clearinghouses and
background-check
websites** yearly
to catch any new
information that has
been collected
about you.

TIP:

Use **DuckDuckGo,**
an anonymous search
engine that does not
collect or share
search history.

SOURCES

PRESENTED BY

Spokeo: www.spokeo.com

Intelius: www.intelius.com

DuckDuckGo: www.duckduckgo.com

PeopleFinders: www.peoplefinders.com

Delete my Google+ Profile: www.support.google.com

Webmaster Tools – My Removal Requests: www.google.com

How to Delete Yourself From the Internet: www.wikihow.com

How Do I permanently delete my account: www.facebook.com

Closing Your Account | LinkedIn Help Center: www.help.linkedin.com

Twitter Support: Deactivating your account: www.support.twitter.com

C|NET How to Delete Yourself From the Internet: www.howto.cnet.com

How to Commit Internet Suicide and Disappear from the Web Forever: www.lifehacker.com

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How to Disappear Online by Admin

By Admin on December 12, 2013

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