

Facebook – changes to privacy 23rd August 2011

The first thing to say is that this is a **positive step** by Facebook which gives users more control over their profiles and privacy.

It is also important to note that **there are no changes to people’s existing privacy settings**.

Tagging

It will now be possible to approve any photo or post that you’ve been tagged in **before it becomes visible to anyone via your profile**.



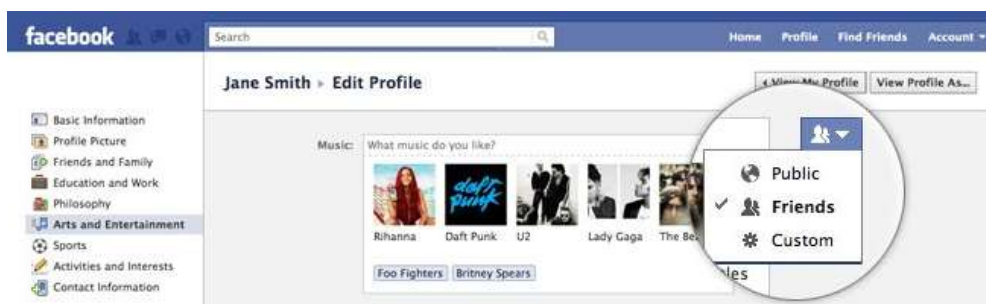
You need to enable this feature in your profile settings as it is switched off by default.

It is now possible to tag anyone, including people who are not friends. In theory this increases the likelihood of being tagged.

FB is also going to disclose who put a tag onto a piece of content. This has always been visible to the person who was tagged, but the thought here is that if this information is available to anyone looking at the content then it might help to prevent unpleasant or abusive/bullying tagging.

Inline profile controls

Every piece of content on your profile will have a dropdown menu next to it (see above) and you can decide who can see each part of your profile with a single click.



New terminology

In the past, FB users could share information with *friends*, *friends of friends* or *everyone* (it was also possible to *customise* the settings and select individual people to share with). The new settings have got rid of the term *everyone* and FB is now using the term *public*. The thinking behind this is to bring more clarity as many users reported that they were confused by the term “everyone”.

It is interesting to note that users who are under 18 (minors) are not given the option of sharing with the public – however we realise that many users under the age of 18 have lied about their age and so are not afforded this extra protection.

It is important to know that whatever you choose (e.g. public, friends, custom) will become the default. So if you make a “public” post this will be the setting for all subsequent posts unless you change it.

There is also a plan to introduce groups to the list shortly which means it will be easier for users to group particular people. (This feature is very similar to google+, although these plans were being discussed at FB way before google+ was launched.)

View profile as...

It has always been possible to see what your profile looks like to other people and this is a good way to check just what can actually be seen. However this function has not been easy to find, several clicks away from the profile page, it has now been moved and is at the top of the profile page where it is very much easier to access.



There are some other changes around location meaning users can display their location in any post.

Facebook details the changes here <http://blog.facebook.com/blog.php?post=10150251867797131>

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like any further information about any of the above.