COMPUTING AND DIGITAL LITERACY

Privacy and Digital Footprints

Difficulty level: Easy

Computing and Digital Literacy

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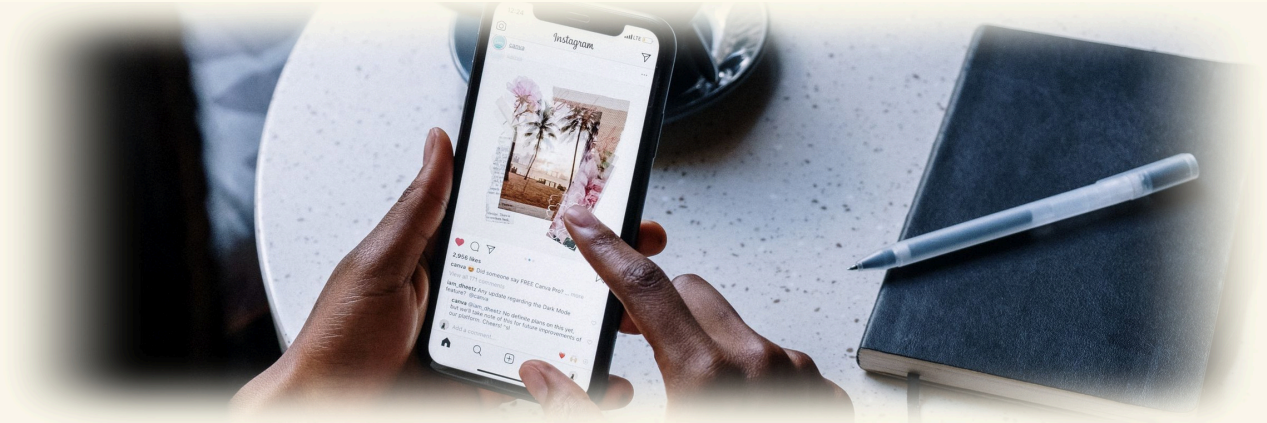
Overview of the concept

This is how you protect your reputation online, since a photo or comment you post today can still be found by a future employer years from now. A joke posted at fifteen can turn up in a job search at twenty-five, and a photo shared with friends can be saved and shared far beyond them. Employers and colleges do look, and what they find shapes what they think of you before they ever meet you. Thinking before you post is the simplest way to keep your future options open.



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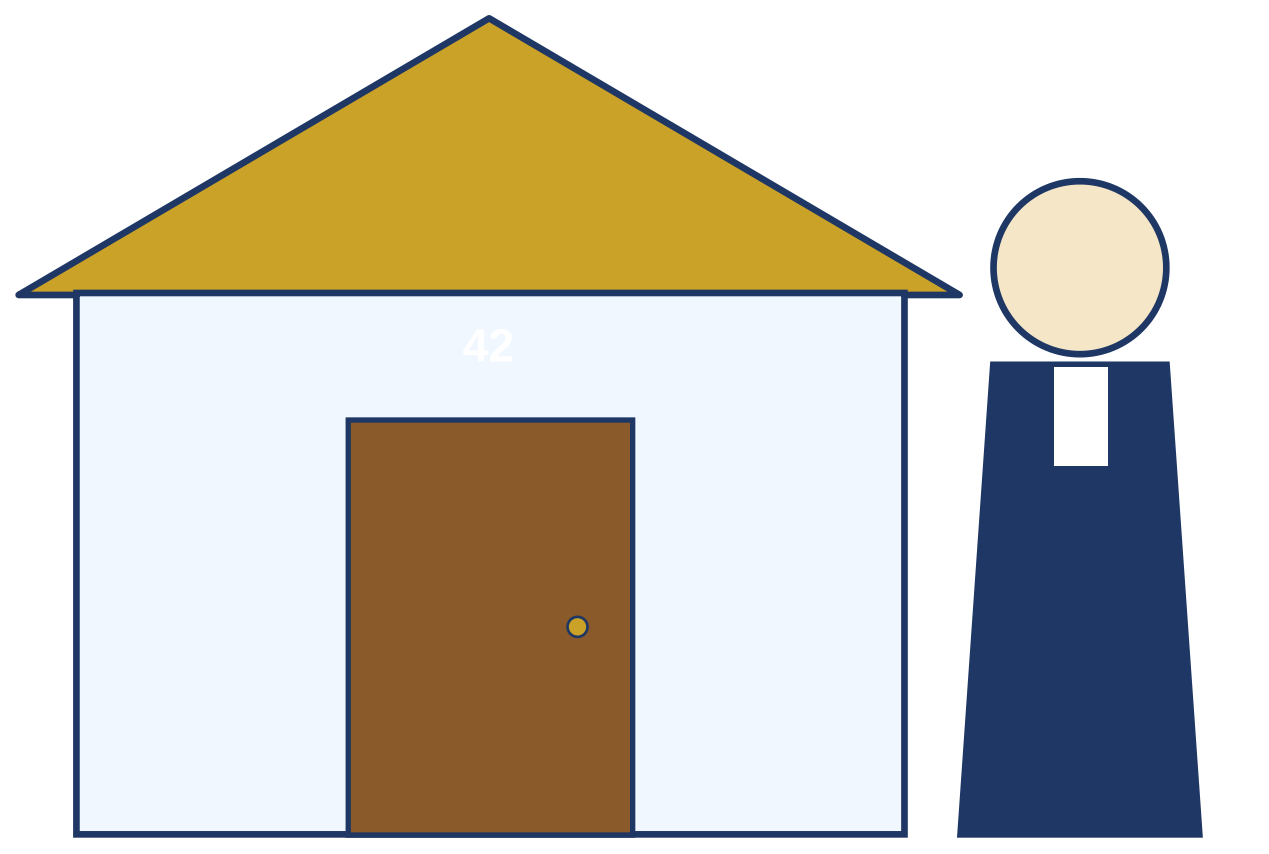
Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Should you post a photo that shows your school uniform and house number?



SOLUTION

Post idea: a photo showing your school uniform and house number.

Risk: strangers can work out where you live and study.

Choice: do not post it, or crop out identifying details.

Look at the photo or post for personal details: names, uniforms, addresses, locations.

Ask whether you would be happy for anyone, including a stranger, to see it in five years.

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If not, do not post it, or remove the identifying details first.

EXAMPLE 2

Q Check privacy settings



SOLUTION

Setting: profile = Public -> change to Friends only.

Setting: location tagging = On -> turn Off.

Result: far fewer strangers can see your posts.

Open the privacy settings on each app you use.

Set your profile and posts to friends only rather than public.

Turn off location tagging so posts do not reveal where you are.

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Practice questions

1

What is a digital footprint?

A. The trail of posts, photos, comments, and data you leave online

B. A list of your passwords and usernames

C. The history saved only on your own phone

D. A record of every website you have ever visited

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2 Why should you think before posting a photo?

- A Because it can be copied, kept, and found long afterwards
- B Because photos always disappear after a day
- C Because only your friends can see it
- D Because posting is against the rules

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3 What personal details should you avoid posting publicly?

- A Your favourite colour and food
- B Your address, phone number, school, and daily routine
- C Your username and profile picture
- D The names of your pets

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4 What does setting a profile to 'friends only' do?

- A It deletes your old posts
- B It limits who can see your posts to people you accepted
- C It hides your profile from everyone
- D It stops anyone from copying your posts

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5 True or false: deleting a post guarantees no one kept a copy.

- A True, deleting removes every copy
- B False, someone may have screenshotted or copied it

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6 A stranger online asks for your home address. What is the safest thing to do?

- A Tell a trusted adult and do not reply
- B Send your address
- C Send your school name instead
- D Ask the stranger for their address

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7 A friend posts a photo of you without asking. What can you do?

- A Ask them to remove it, and report it if they refuse
- B Post a photo of them in return
- C Delete your own account
- D Do nothing, it is not your photo

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8 What is a privacy setting?

- A. A control that limits who sees your information
- B. A password that locks your phone
- C. A way to delete the internet
- D. A list of your friends

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9 Why review old posts sometimes?

- A. To remove anything you no longer want public
- B. To get more followers
- C. To change your username
- D. To back up your photos

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10

You are unsure about posting something. What is the safest choice?

A Post it and delete it later

B Do not post it

C Post it to friends only

D Ask a stranger

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ANSWER KEY

1. The trail of posts, photos, comments, and data you leave online
2. Because it can be copied, kept, and found long afterwards
3. Your address, phone number, school, and daily routine
4. It limits who can see your posts to people you accepted
5. False, someone may have screenshotted or copied it
6. Tell a trusted adult and do not reply
7. Ask them to remove it, and report it if they refuse
8. A control that limits who sees your information
9. To remove anything you no longer want public
10. Do not post it

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