SOCIAL NETWORKING AND ONLINE COMMUNITIES

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**What is this phenomenon?** Where one can post thoughts, receive messages from other users, show case music and art and link to other homepages of online friends and acquaintances around the world. Communicate totally online. Websites such **as MySpace, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn** – all foster communication and friendship with others ~ penpals of the past.

**ROLE**: a hangout and flirt zone for teens, stage for musicians and comedians and artists to showcase their work, networking zone for professionals. It may become addictive and time consuming or maybe life consuming if you let it.

The first online community was **CLASSMATES.COM**, in order to find old schoolmates.

**Which one is for me?** Where your friends are – most will stay with only one application.

**DANGERS**: careful what you reveal online, stalkers, bullies, and pedophiles do exist, they may not be who they say they are – as its an anonymous environment. Case of Megan Myers of Dardeen Prairie/O’fallon, MO

**Can anyone sign up?** Yes, but age restrictions apply, offensive material is prohibited, no copy righted material uploaded to share.

**How do I sign up?** Use your real identity or use an alter ego/persona. PWs: at least 6 characters in length (letters and #s), do not let anyone have this information – keep it private.

**Whats this verification code?** This ensures that its not being created by a “bot” which is an automatic form filling program. Its to ensure a HUMAN enters in the data.

**Is there a cost?** No, most are free unless you want to pay for premium service such as ad removal.

**What do I need?** Email Account, internet service, updated computer, free time.

**Where can I access it?** Any PC or MAC with internet access such as your home, hotel, cyber café, library, wifi hotspots

If you use a computer OTHER THAN YOURS, remember to **LOG OFF**, so no one else can act as you. YOUR ID/PW should remain private.

**Can I login at work or at school?** Check with your boss or IT dept/help desk. It could be against policy or it maybe blocked by the server.

**Email Account, where?** Gmail.Com, Hotmail.Com, Yahoo.Com they are all free, do not use your normal email address, and do not give your work address. Create a new – junk email address for online communities.

**What do I need?** COMPUTER, keep it updated with patches, keep the AntiVirus updated to avoid viruses/malware, internet browser (Firefox, IE, Safari (MAC)), Adobe Flash as videos will require this application.

**PhotoEditing Software**: if you want to alter your digital photos prior to uploading try using the following applications

**GIMP** (gimp.org)

**PICASA** (picasa.google.com)

**PHOTOSHOP** (adobe.com) – ***we do offer this class in continuing ed dept***

**PAINTSHOP** **PRO** (jasc.com)

**Music software:**

**AUDACITY** (audacity.soiurceforge.net)

**REAPER** (reaper.fm)

**ILIFE** (apple.com) MAC

**GARBAGEBAND** (apple.com) MAC

**??QUESTIONS??** Look for the FAQs page or an email address for support or an 800#.

**BE AWARE:** Colleges and Employers are using these sites to check on current and potential employees to see what their character maybe. People have been denied employment and been fired for what they’ve posted.

**Identity Theft:** Someone who’s acting as you – you need to contact the websites administrators

**Harassment/Threats:** you need to contact the police if they are contacting you via phone or physically after you’ve blocked them from your WEBSITE.

**URL** > universal resource locater – website address http://[www.facebook.com/prettygirlblueeyes](http://www.facebook.com/prettygirlblueeyes), this is referred to as your HOME PAGE or HELLO page.

**Can I upload photos?** Yes, but they must be in the format of JPG, GIF and 600k in size

**LINKEDIN.COM** > a place for working professionals to share resume and network in order to be recognized and find possible jobs with potential employers who scan the site

**NET ETTIQUETTE** – there are rules believe it or not, <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/>

**STAY PRIVATE**

* + - Do not let others know if you are online or not
    - Do not post inappropriate material
    - Do not give personal information out or stats about you
    - Approve others comments before they are posted for all to see
    - Don’t allow pictures to be forwarded
    - Only allow group invites from friends you know

**MAINTAIN SECURITY**

* + - Use passwords with mixed letters and #s and change it regularly
    - Don’t share your passwords with others
    - Always log out
    - Don’t let friends play on your site
    - Never have computer remember login
    - Never give your Credit Card information out or type it in
    - Never pay for codes – free on websites – google them –layouts. Backgrounds, etc.
    - Never accept downloads from sites you are not familiar with
    - Use antivirus software and keep it updated

**MY SURVEY OF MY “CIRCLE OF FRIENDS, FAMILY, COLLEAGES”**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ONLINE COMMUNITIES** | **AGE RANGE** | **FRIENDS** | **FAMILY** | **COLLEAGES** |
| **MYSPACE** | 14-35 yr |  |  |  |
| **FACEBOOK** | 15 – 24 yr |  |  |  |
| **TWITTER** |  |  |  |  |
| **LINKEDIN** |  |  |  |  |

**MYSPACE**

**How can I find my friends?** **SEARCH** or **FIND** for individuals, **BROWSE** for random people with same interests**, INVITE, REQUEST**

If you do not want to receive “REQUESTS” via email from others seeking you, disable this under the ACCOUNT SETTINGS area.

**OUT OF OFFICE:** Yes, with **MYSPACE**, you can **under VIEW > EDIT AWAY MESSAGE** under **ACCOUNT SETTINGS**

To **view all** friends, VIEW ALL IN FRIENDS on Hello Page or you can DRAG/DROP thumbnails to reorder.

Change **TOP FRIENDS** > at bottom of friends area on Hello page, you can reorder

**Can I delete my account?** Yes, 48 hrs later you can re-establish it with the email address you used previously.

**MYSPACE EMAIL** – is only within MYSPACE it does not go out to normal email addresses. Yes, there is an **ADDRESS** **book** also.

COMMENTS – are allowed to be posted for all to see – but you have the ability to BLOCK, DELETE and APPROVE prior to it being seen by the world (check SETTINGS)

**CHAT (Instant Messaging, IM)** real time messages with others on MYSPACE, You must enable this in **ACCOUNT SETTINGS**. Usually with several in your “CIRCLE”

**CHAT ROOMS** – they are policed by moderators, with a whole slew of people

**GROUPS** – policed by moderators, participation ongoing interest of subject

**FORUMS** – drop in when you have a question that needs an answer to a problem – like a **bulleting board / message board / discussion board**.

**OTHER FEAUTURES:** besides Email, IM, Images

**EVENTS**

**CALENDAR**

**BLOGGING** – post thoughts in journal page (image, music, video, opinions)

**MUSIC** – artists in all genres you can listen to

**FILM** -

**BOOKS** – book chats

**GAMES** – online and downloadable, free and fee based, games and puzzles

**SCHOOLS** – shows most popular listing of school communities

**COMEDY** – watch sketches of comedians and jokes in a forum

**SETTING UP** **PRIVACY and SECURITY** – found in **ACCOUNT SETTINGS**