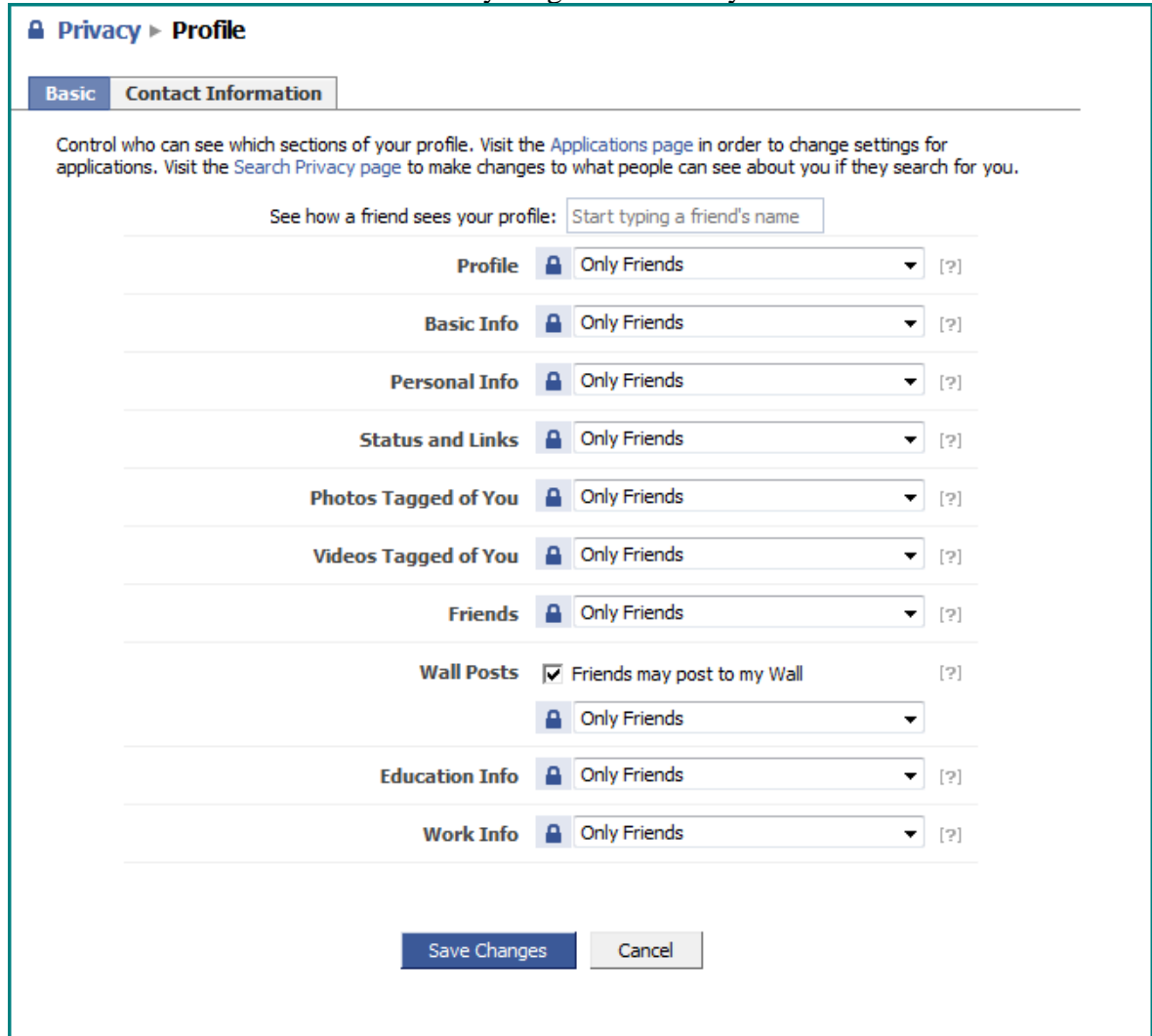


Facebook secrets that may inadvertently compromise privacy...

For whoever is interested and for what it's worth...

1. Make sure you only allow friends to see your profile.
 - 1.1. Cursor over “settings” in the upper right-hand corner, and select “privacy”
 - 1.1.1. Select “Profile” and make sure everything is set to “only friends”



The screenshot shows the Facebook Privacy settings page for a user's profile. At the top, there's a header with a lock icon and the text "Privacy > Profile". Below this are two tabs: "Basic" (selected) and "Contact Information". A paragraph of text explains that users can control who sees different sections of their profile and provides links to "Applications" and "Search Privacy" pages. A search bar labeled "See how a friend sees your profile:" is present. Below this, a list of profile sections is shown, each with a lock icon, a dropdown menu set to "Only Friends", and a help icon "[?]". The sections are: Profile, Basic Info, Personal Info, Status and Links, Photos Tagged of You, Videos Tagged of You, Friends, Wall Posts (which also has a checkbox for "Friends may post to my Wall"), Education Info, and Work Info. At the bottom, there are two buttons: "Save Changes" and "Cancel".

Section	Privacy Setting	Help
Profile	Only Friends	[?]
Basic Info	Only Friends	[?]
Personal Info	Only Friends	[?]
Status and Links	Only Friends	[?]
Photos Tagged of You	Only Friends	[?]
Videos Tagged of You	Only Friends	[?]
Friends	Only Friends	[?]
Wall Posts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Friends may post to my Wall Only Friends	[?]
Education Info	Only Friends	[?]
Work Info	Only Friends	[?]

- 1.1.2. As necessary, return to settings/privacy and select “search.” Again, make sure your settings are appropriate.

Privacy ▸ **Search**

Search Discovery
Use this setting below to control who on Facebook can find you through search. Your Friends will always be able to find you.

Search Visibility Everyone

Search Result Content
People who can find you in search can click through to a very limited version of your profile. Use these checkboxes to control what people can see in addition to your name.

People who can see me in search can see:

- ☒ My profile picture
- ☐ My friend list
- ☒ A link to add me as a friend
- ☒ A link to send me a message
- ☐ Pages I am a fan of

Public Search Listing
Use this setting to control whether your search result is available outside of Facebook.

☐ Create a public search listing for me and submit it for search engine indexing ([see preview](#))

Please note that minors do not have public search listings.

1.1.3. As necessary, return to settings/privacy and select “search.” Two tabs here. Start with “Actions within Facebook”

Posting to someone's Wall may appear in your mutual friends' News Feeds.

☐ Show Wall posts

The Highlights section on your friends' home pages can include your Recent Activity. Allow Highlights to show my activity when I...

- ☒ Comment on or like a note
- ☒ Comment on or like a photo or album
- ☒ Comment on or like a video
- ☒ Comment on or like a link
- ☒ Change relationship status

Recent Activity will appear on your Wall when you edit your profile. Also show Recent Activity when I...

- ☒ Remove profile info
- ☒ Post on a discussion board
- ☐ Add a friend

Recent Activity can be shown in your Chat conversations.

☐ Show Recent Activity in Chat

Save Changes **Cancel**

Recent Activity will **never** be shown about:

- ☒ Pokes
- ☒ Messages
- ☐ Whose profile you view
- ☐ Whose photos you view
- ☐ Whose notes you read
- ☐ Groups and Events you decline to join
- ☐ People you reject as friends
- ☐ People you remove from your friends
- ☐ Notes and photos you delete

Posts may be published by your applications ([Edit Applications](#)):

- ☐ Guilford College Alumni Connections
- ☐ Where in the World?

The two highlighted items are noted below...

Also check the settings under “Facebook Ads.” These are (I think) attempts to get people to take various quizzes, etc. I can think of NO reason to allow this. So change the default.

Privacy ▸ **News Feed and Wall**

Actions within Facebook **Facebook Ads**

Facebook occasionally pairs advertisements with relevant social actions from a user's friends to create Facebook Ads. Facebook Ads make advertisements more interesting and more tailored to you and your friends. These respect all privacy rules. You may opt out of appearing in your friends' Facebook Ads below.

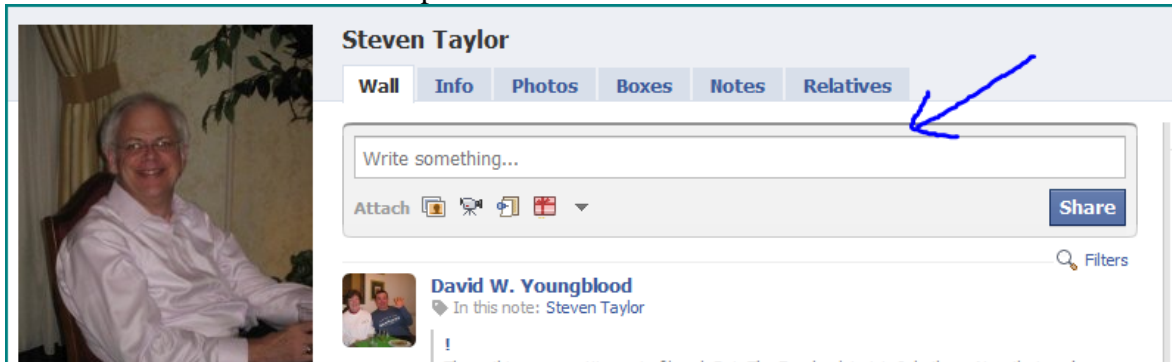
Appearance in Facebook Ads No one ▾

Save Changes Cancel

1.1.4. The “Applications” tab contains information but no options to set...

2. Facebook is VERY obtuse about what is and what is not shown. The two major rules are:

2.1. Whatever is written on a wall is public.



and this info may be viewed by anybody who has permission to view the wall of the person on whose wall it is written.

2.2. Messages are private – like email – and – within reason – are relatively secure.



and may reasonably be used instead of email. See 1.1.3 above concerning the fact that info

about messages will never be shown – allegedly.

2.3. A totally counterintuitive “feature” is that if one friend writes on another friend’s wall, then all people who are friends of both *may* receive a copy in their notifications.

2.3.1. For instance, since I am friends of both Sarah Thomas and Elizabeth Thomas, the following appeared on my wall when Elizabeth wrote on Sarah’s wall:



2.3.2. However, I *think* this may be disabled by unchecking “show wall posts” as shown above on 1.1.3.

2.4. The bottom line is not to post anything that you don’t want to share with your friends. Use email instead.

3. What to show in your profile...

3.1. Click on “Info” on your profile. Then “Edit.”

3.1.1. Probably the most important is to show your birthday (so people may wish you a happy birthday” but to suppress the year.

A screenshot of the Facebook "Basic Information" profile edit page. The page has a grey header with a downward arrow and the text "Basic Information". Below this, various fields are listed on the left with their corresponding input controls on the right. The fields include: Sex (Male dropdown), Show my sex in my profile (checked checkbox), Birthday (Dec, 14, 19[redacted] dropdown), Show only month & day in my profile. (dropdown menu with a blue arrow pointing to it), Hometown (text input), Home Neighborhood (text input), Family Members (Select Relation dropdown and text input), Add another family member (link), Relationship Status (In a Relationship dropdown, with text "with Jean Gregory Taylor (Greensboro, NC)" and "Cancel Relationship" link below), Interested in (checkboxes for Men and Women), Looking for (checkboxes for Friendship, Dating, A Relationship, and Networking), Political Views (text input "Liberal Guilfordian, but with som"), and Religious Views (text input "Quakerpalean").

3.1.1.1. I probably would also recommend against listing family members... Just because.

3.1.2. Personally, I would be extremely circumspect about entering too much “personal Information” or “Contact Information.” Your friends know you...

3.1.3. The Education and work portion is used for finding friends. So this is pretty important.

▼ Education and Work

College/University:

Guilford

1975

▼

Attended for College

▼

Concentration:

Physics

Add Another Concentration

Remove School

College/University:

Dartmouth

1977

▼

Attended for Graduate School

▼

Concentration:

Physics

Add Another Concentration

Degree:

Remove School

Add Another School

High School:

East Surry High

1971

▼

Remove High School

Add Another High School

Employer:

Webtorials / Distributed Network

Position:

Editor/Publisher/President

Description:

City/Town:

Greensboro, NC

Time Period:

☒ I currently work here.

July

▼

1984

▼

to present.

Remove Job

There's probably a lot that I forgot, but this may be a good start. Please comment, correct, revise, and extend...

