



Data Privacy Day  
**2010**

DIGITAL LIVES IN A  
NETWORKED WORLD

## **Teen Privacy Online**

### **Social Networking, Privacy Policies and Security Risks: How to protect your personal information online**

**Privacy Is Important.** More than 55% of American online teenagers have social networking profiles. When you build profiles and interact online, you give out personal information. Privacy is the right or opportunity to decide who has access to your personal information and how that information should be used. Think carefully about the information you share online and understand how the sites work to use social networks responsibly and safely.

**Know Your Audience.** Site operators, advertisers, colleges, potential employers, friends and parents may access and use the information you share online. Depending on your privacy settings, your personal information may be available to the general public. Be cautious about the personal details you disclose.

**Know the Basics.**

Be sparing with the personally identifiable information you put online. **Use privacy settings** to control who has access to the various parts of your profile page, your photos, and your online journals. **Don't share** your last name, your phone numbers, home address, date of birth, school or team name, travel plans, social security number, passwords, family financial information, bank or credit card numbers.

**Consider the Consequences:** If you would not put it on a resume or college application, or if you wouldn't share it with your parents, **don't post it.** If you wouldn't put it on a poster and hang it on your locker or your dorm room door, **don't post it.** Generally, don't accept "friends" you do not know in the real world.

**It Isn't all about Common Sense:** Awareness of technological facts, like caching, promotes better decision-making. Personal information and photographs shared in the digital world can be forwarded, archived, and stored in browsers and search engines, making it difficult if not impossible to take them back.

Be careful not to jeopardize the privacy of others. Don't identify others on your page in a way they would not identify themselves or post photos they would not post.

Read privacy policies. Look for notice, choice, access, and security provisions and learn how your personal information will be used by the site.

**You are the best protector of your privacy – make smart choices.**

For more information, visit [www.dataprivacyday.org](http://www.dataprivacyday.org)