

Facebook's New Privacy Settings

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In response to [recent criticism](#), Facebook has added new privacy settings and made them easier to access. The new settings give users more security options for who can view content that's on their profile. In a nutshell, the new privacy settings address tagging, blocking events, blocking apps, and setting visibility restrictions to the public and friends.

Privacy Shortcuts

The most obvious change is the new **Privacy Shortcuts** tab in the upper right-hand corner of the page.

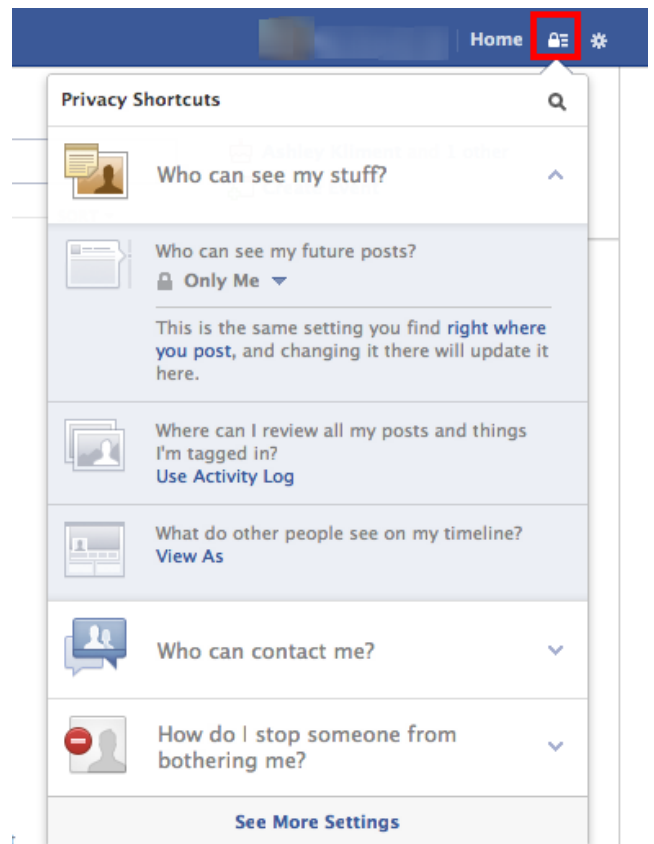
Clicking on this tab brings up the Privacy Shortcuts bar, which allows you to jump right into the most popular privacy settings menus without having to navigate through the entire list of settings. This new approach simplifies the process and makes safeguarding your account much easier.

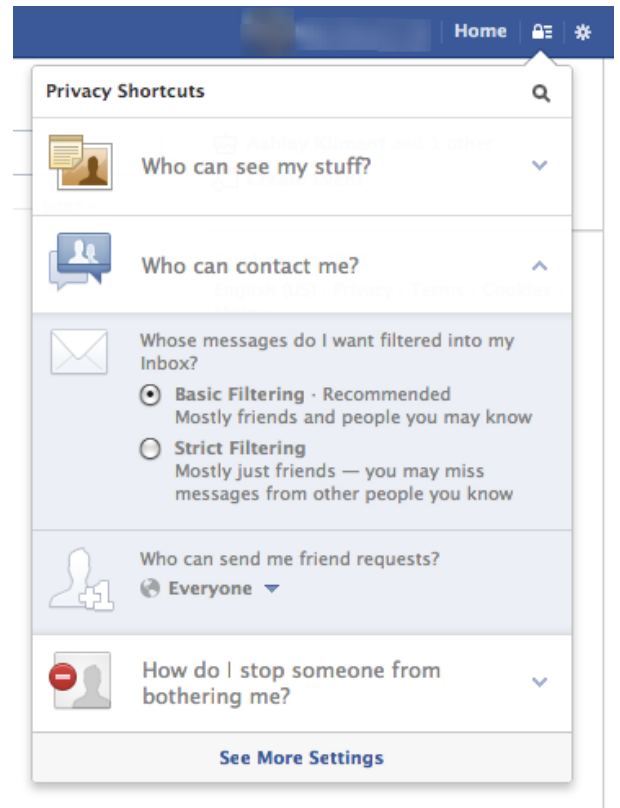
Unfortunately, the new shortcut feature doesn't give you access to *all* the privacy settings, so you'll still have to click the gear tab in the upper right-hand corner of the page and select **Privacy Settings**.

Privacy

Under the **Privacy** tab, you can limit who sees your future posts, limit access to past posts, edit who can access your timeline when searching for you, and most importantly, you can set up your timeline so that it doesn't appear in search engine queries. That way if someone Googles your name, your Facebook profile won't appear in the search results.

You can learn more about social media background checks and how they can affect you and/or your child in the future, [here](#).





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- Timeline and Tagging
- Blocking
- Notifications
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Privacy Settings and Tools

Who can see my stuff?	Who can see your future posts?	Only Me	Edit
	Review all your posts and things you're tagged in		Use Activity Log
	Limit the audience for posts you've shared with friends of friends or Public?		Limit Past Posts
Who can look me up?	Who can look you up using the email address or phone number you provided?	Friends	Edit
	Who can look up your timeline by name?	Friends	Edit
	Do you want other search engines to link to your timeline?	Off	Edit

Timeline and Tagging

Under the **Timeline and Tagging** tab, you are given options to restrict who posts on your timeline, restrict who sees posts on your timeline, and settings for managing tags. My recommendation is that you only allow friends to post and see posts on your timeline as sometimes we tend to post personal things about ourselves that we might not want the general public to know. I also **highly recommend** that you set it so that you're able to review tags that other people put on your posts.

The screenshot shows the Facebook settings menu on the left with 'Timeline and Tagging' selected. The main content area is titled 'Timeline and Tagging Settings' and contains a table of settings:

Setting	Current Value	Action
Who can add things to my timeline?	Friends	Edit
Who can post on your timeline?	Friends	Edit
Review posts friends tag you in before they appear on your timeline?	On	Edit
Who can see things on my timeline?	Review what other people see on your timeline	View As
Who can see posts you've been tagged in on your timeline?	Friends	Edit
Who can see what others post on your timeline?	Friends	Edit
How can I manage tags people add and tagging suggestions?	Review tags people add to your own posts before the tags appear on Facebook?	On
	When you're tagged in a post, who do you want to add to the audience if they aren't already in it?	Friends
	Who sees tag suggestions when photos that look like you are uploaded?	No One

Blocking

The **Blocking** tab is the final featured of Facebook's privacy settings, and it allows you to block users, apps, app invites and event invites. The nice thing about this is you can cut down on the amount of spam in your notifications feed while not having to be forced to remove the chronic inviter from your friends list. You can also place friends on the restricted list, which keeps them from seeing the posts you mark as "friends only".

The screenshot shows the Facebook settings menu on the left with 'Blocking' selected. The main content area is titled 'Manage Blocking' and contains several sections:

- Restricted List:** When you add friends to your Restricted list they can only see the information and posts that you make public. Facebook does not notify your friends when you add them to your Restricted list.
- Block users:** Once you block someone, that person can no longer be your friend on Facebook or interact with you (except within apps and games you both use and groups you are both a member of). Below this is a form with 'Block users:' followed by an input field 'Add name or email' and a 'Block' button.
- Block app invites:** Once you block app invites from someone, you'll automatically ignore future app requests from that friend. To block invites from a specific friend, click the "Ignore All Invites From This Friend" link under your latest request. Below this is a form with 'Block invites from:' followed by an input field 'Type the name of a friend...'.
- Block event invites:** Once you block event invites from someone, you'll automatically ignore future event requests from that friend. Below this is a form with 'Block invites from:' followed by an input field 'Type the name of a friend...'.
- Block apps:** Once you block an app, it can no longer contact you or get non-public information about you through Facebook. [Learn More.](#) Below this is a form with 'Block apps:' followed by an input field 'Type the name of an app...' and a list of suggestions:
 - Yelp Unblock
 - 4Loot Unblock
 - Zoo World Unblock
 - What car were you born to drive. Unblock

In addition to these new safety settings, Facebook has also put together a page called [FamilySafetyCenter](#). This page offers a ton of information about the tools and resources that parents can use to protect their older teens on Facebook. I definitely recommend taking a look at the page because a lot of the information can be applied to sites other than Facebook and can help you start a conversation about privacy with your children.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Facebook was created for adults. The content, culture and people that make up Facebook highlight this fact. You can see a glimpse of this reality [right here](#). That's why, when it comes to your younger teens and children, I always recommend that you introduce them to social networking in a healthy, positive way.

[Yoursphere.com](https://yoursphere.com) is a great online destination to do that in. Our core focus as a company is not only on the privacy and safety of our members, but also on providing today's children with a positive online environment where they can connect with other children who have similar interests, learn how to be digitally responsible, (minus the adult content and often very coarse culture that surrounds them on Facebook) and most importantly, have fun!