



## Passwords, Facebook, and Apps

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When folks find out what I do for a living, they often pepper me with questions. Here are a few of the most common.

### **1. Why do I need to put a password on my iPhone or tablet?**

Do you lock your house? It's valuable property. But more than that, it contains your life: your personal information, cherished memories, and stuff you've made or gathered. Your mobile device is just a much smaller version, without the furniture. Protect it. Lock it with a strong password. [Learn more.](#)

### **2. Why don't you use Facebook?**

It's true. I only use Facebook for testing purposes, not to share intimate details about every facet of my life with anybody who wants to read it. Or slurp all my personal information, likes, dislikes, friends, relatives, friends of relatives, and pictures of stupid acts I don't remember doing.

Call me anti-social and paranoid. Or call me thoughtful and private. Facebook has changed users' privacy settings multiple times without warning, so I don't trust that they'll honor my privacy settings. They've changed everybody's default email address, so I don't trust that they'll honor my preferences. And they sell or provide access to my information to others that I don't know, like developers and Facebook business partners. The Onion created a [great video](#) that sums up my personal feelings. (Yes, it's a parody ... I think.)

Facebook is great for sharing general, public information. But all my information is personal.

[Learn more.](#)

### **3. Should I download \_\_\_\_\_ app?**

When I ask if the person checked the app's permissions, they usually just answer with a blank look. Take a moment and check out what type of information and access you're giving that app. On an Android device, check the permissions tab. On an Apple device, check its settings. Some apps want access to your personal information, all your contacts, your location, your device's camera and microphone... Why would a flashlight app, for example, need those types of permissions? So the folks behind the app can collect your personal information — usually to sell to data aggregators and marketers.



I'm not saying don't download any apps. I'm saying don't download apps *blindly*. Be aware. If there are a bunch of apps that do the same thing, pick the one that requires the least permissions.

[Learn more.](#)

## ***References***

[EPIC: Facebook Timeline changes users' privacy settings](#)

[Facebook Changes Privacy Settings Yet Again](#)

[Facebook Data Use Policy](#)

[Facebook's Lame Attempt To Force Its Email Service On You](#)