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## 5 Ways To Keep Your Information Safe On Facebook

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**<https://tinyurl.com/y6v7usju>**

Facebook is once again in the news for the role its platform may have played in the 2016 U.S. election. This time, the furor is over allegations that the private information of millions of Facebook users was illegally obtained by the data-analysis firm Cambridge Analytica — which worked for President Donald Trump's campaign — and the firm reportedly held on to this information. News of the breach was reported by The New York Times and The Observer and Facebook has since suspended the firm from its platform.

The company claims to build psychological profiles based on personal details from millions of Americans that can categorize individual voters, and was employed by both both the primary campaign of Texas senator Ted Cruz and the Trump general-election campaign. The firm is backed by the family of billionaire donor Robert Mercer.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg addressed the allegations for the first time on Wednesday, saying the company has a responsibility to protect user data "and if we can't then we don't deserve to serve you." Zuckerberg also wrote that Facebook took steps years ago to prevent this from happening again.

Zuckerberg also provided a timeline of events explaining what happened. According to him and a previous statement issued by Facebook, in 2013 about 300,000 people installed a personality quiz app, sharing their data with the app as well as some of their friends' data. The app was created by a researcher named Aleksandr Kogan.

"Given the way our platform worked at the time this meant Kogan was able to access tens of millions of their friends' data," Zuckerberg wrote.

Facebook says it made changes in 2014 that limits the data apps could access and a similar app today would not be able to access that much data.

Zuckerberg says Facebook learned in 2015 that Kogan shared this data with Cambridge Analytica and the platform asked the firm to certify they had deleted the information.

According to Facebook, Cambridge Analytica made that certification, but the company learned last week from journalists at the Times, The Guardian and Channel 4 that the company may not have deleted the data.

Facebook says it's working on fixing the problem but in the meantime, here's five easy steps you can take to protect your information on Facebook:

### **1. Check your third-party apps**

When you log into Facebook, go to your settings and then click on "apps." You will see all the third-party apps you have logged into using Facebook and can easily remove any app you don't use anymore. If you don't want to delete an app, you can also limit the information you share with an app by clicking on the edit button and unchecking any information you don't want to share with the app.

### **2. Apps may already have your information stored**

As Zuckerberg wrote in his post, in 2014 Facebook took steps to dramatically limit the data apps could access. An app authorized by a user could not access the information of that user's friends unless they had also installed the app. But that doesn't change anything for a user's data who has installed an app. If

you want an app to delete your data, you have to contact the developer directly. Facebook explains how you can do that [here](#) but there's no guarantee your information would be deleted. When you're in your settings and see what apps you have logged into using Facebook, click on the edit button and then click "report app." You'll be given a new set of options from where you can select "I want to send my own message to the developer."

### **3. Don't login to apps using Facebook**

When you're logging into a new application, having the option to log in using Facebook seems convenient since all your information is already stored on the platform. But as we've seen, it's also risky. In your apps settings, scroll to the bottom and click on the edit button under "apps, websites and plugins." You can click "disable platform" and that will stop you from logging into third party apps or websites using Facebook.

### **4. Control what your friends can share**

Under the "apps, websites and plugins" option, there's another setting labeled "apps others use" and Facebook says people who can see your information can bring it with them when they use apps. To prevent this from happening, click on edit under "apps others use" and uncheck any information you don't want to share.

### **5. Delete Facebook**

If working through all your individual app settings is too tedious, consider getting rid of the app altogether. This is a step that many, including the co-founder of WhatsApp, the secure messaging service now owned by Facebook, are advocating.