Social Networks - Do's and Don’ts

- Only establish and maintain connections with people you know and trust. Review your connections often.
- Assume that ANYONE can see any information about your activities, personal life, or professional life that you post and share.
- Ensure that your family takes similar precautions with their accounts; their privacy and sharing settings can expose your personal data.
- Avoid posting or tagging images of you or your family that clearly show your face. Select pictures taken at a distance, at an angle, or otherwise concealed. Never post Smartphone photos and don’t use your face as a profile photo, instead, use cartoons or avatars.
- Use secure browser settings when possible and monitor your browsing history to ensure that you recognize all access points.

Managing Your Google+ Profile

Google+ provides privacy and sharing options using Circles. Circles are groups that users create for different types of connections, such as family, friends, or colleagues. Content is shared only with circles you select. Google+ requires that users provide real names - no pseudonyms.

Profile Settings

Apply and save the Profile settings shown below to ensure that your information is visible to only people of your choosing.
Account Settings & Minimizing Your Activities

Apply the Account settings shown with arrows below to ensure that your information is shared in a limited fashion.

- Account settings can be accessed under **Account Settings > Google**.
- Maintain a small Google+ “footprint”. Select only important Google+ notifications as shown in the box to the left.
- Limit notifications to email as opposed to text.
- **Do not** connect your mobile phone to Google+ or use the Google+ mobile application, and **disable +1** on non-Google Websites
- **Do not** allow contacts to tag you then automatically link to your profile
- **Disable** your circles from accessing your photo tags prior to you

By default, Google+ uses your Google contact information to link your accounts from other online services, aggregating your online identity in one location. To disable this feature:

- **Go to** Account Settings > Connected Accounts
- **Click “No”** to Google-suggested 3rd-party accounts
- **Disable Google+ access** to your contact information
- **Do not** manually connect other online accounts using Google+

Deleting Your Google+ Profile Information or Account

- **Delete Google+ Content** removes Google+ related information such as circles, +1’s, posts, and comments
- **Delete your entire Google profile** removes all user data from Google services, including your Gmail
- **Disable web history** to prevent accumulation of your digital footprint

Useful Links

- OnGuard Online: [www.onguardonline.gov/topics/social-networking-sites.aspx](http://www.onguardonline.gov/topics/social-networking-sites.aspx)