

Timeline of Social Networking Privacy Incidents

Cyberspace Law Committee California Bar July 13, 2010

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Facebook is launched ¹	February, 2004	
Facebook privacy policy states no personal information will be available to users not specified in privacy settings ²	2005	
Facebook opens to high school students ³	September, 2005	
Facebook changes default information available to include school, specified local area, and other reasonable community limitations ⁴	2006	
Facebook introduces News Feed and Mini-feed ⁵	September 5, 2006	
Facebook introduces new privacy controls for news feed and mini-feed ⁶	September 8, 2006	
Facebook opens to all users with a valid email address ⁷	September 26, 2006	
Facebook makes public users' names, school names, and profile pictures available across entire Facebook network ⁸	2007	
Facebook Unveils "Applications" ⁹	May 24, 2007	
	May 29, 2007	Google "Street View" released ¹⁰
	August 26, 2007	Google allows users to remove people from street view ¹¹
	October, 2007	MySpace glitch allows users to access private photographs ¹²
Facebook introduces "Beacon" and "Facebook Ads" ¹³	November 6, 2007	
Facebook allows users to opt out of Beacon ¹⁴	December, 2007	
	January 18, 2008	MySpace patches private photograph leak ¹⁵
	January 5, 2009	Twitter "Monday Morning Madness" ¹⁶
Facebook expands privacy policy explanations and requires user-approval for applications to acquire access to personal information ¹⁷	April 27, 2009	
	April 30, 2009	Twitter "Unauthorized Access" ¹⁸
Facebook "Beacon" terminated ¹⁹	September, 2009	
Facebook makes certain types of information available to "everyone" (not just users) by default ²⁰	November, 2009	
Facebook removes privacy controls for user names, profile photos, friend lists, pages,	December, 2009	

gender, and geographic regions. ²¹		
Facebook mobile phone glitch ²²	January 16, 2010	
	February 9, 2010	Google Buzz released ²³
	February 16, 2010	EPIC files complaint against Google for converting personal information to the public ²⁴
Facebook settles for \$9.5M over class-action suit over Beacon ²⁵	March 19, 2010	
Facebook allows users to hide certain information on their profiles but prevents such information from being blocked on the pages of others ²⁶	April, 2010	
	April 24, 2010	"Diaspora Project" launched ²⁷
EPIC files complaint with FTC against Facebook for "Instant Personalization" ²⁸	May 5, 2010	
Facebook chat glitch ²⁹	May 5, 2010	
	May 11, 2010	Yelp security hole puts Facebook users at risk ³⁰
	May 20, 2010	Twitter "Accept" bug leaked ³¹
Facebook privacy redesign ³²	May 26, 2010	
	June 20, 2010	LinkedIn links Twitter accounts without user authorization ³³
	June 24, 2010	Twitter settles with FTC for failure to protect consumers' privacy and agrees to create independently audited information security program ³⁴
	June 29, 2010	Foursquare security leak allowed hacker to log 857,000 check-ins ³⁵
Germany launches official action against Facebook ³⁶	July 8, 2010	
Class action privacy suit filed in Canada against Facebook for mishandling private information ³⁷	July 8, 2010	

¹ <http://www.facebook.com/press/releases.php?p=9176#!/press/info.php?timeline>

² <http://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2010/04/facebook-timeline>

³ <http://www.facebook.com/press/releases.php?p=9176#!/press/info.php?timeline>

⁴ <http://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2010/04/facebook-timeline>

⁵ <http://blog.facebook.com/blog.php?post=2207967130>

⁶ <http://www.facebook.com/press/releases.php?p=9176#!/press/releases.php?p=643>

⁷ <http://www.facebook.com/press/releases.php?p=9176#!/press/releases.php?p=618>

⁸ <http://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2010/04/facebook-timeline>

⁹ <http://www.facebook.com/press/releases.php?p=9176#!/press/releases.php?p=1319>

¹⁰ http://www.google.com/press/annc/maps_where20.html

¹¹ <http://googlesystem.blogspot.com/2007/08/google-lets-you-remove-people-from.html>

¹² <http://www.wired.com/politics/security/news/2008/01/myspace>

¹³ <http://www.facebook.com/press/releases.php?p=9176#!/press/releases.php?p=9166>

¹⁴ <http://www.facebook.com/press/releases.php?p=9176#!/press/releases.php?p=11174>

¹⁵ <http://www.wired.com/threatlevel/2008/01/myspace-quietly/>

¹⁶ <http://blog.twitter.com/2009/01/monday-morning-madness.html>

¹⁷ <http://www.facebook.com/press/releases.php?p=9176#!/press/releases.php?p=118816>

¹⁸ <http://blog.twitter.com/2009/04/unauthorized-access-update-on-security.html>

¹⁹ http://www.pcworld.com/article/172272/facebook_will_shut_down_beacon_to_settle_lawsuit.html

²⁰ <http://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2010/04/facebook-timeline>

²¹ <http://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2010/04/facebook-timeline>

²²

http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20100116/internet_security_100116/20100116?hub=TopStory&sV2

²³ <http://googleblog.blogspot.com/2010/02/introducing-google-buzz.html>

²⁴ http://voices.washingtonpost.com/posttech/2010/02/privacy_advocates_file_complai.html

²⁵ <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703580904575131742105971382.html>

²⁶

http://www.readriteweb.com/archives/more_details_on_atts_network_glitch_which_compromised_facebook_security.php

²⁷ http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/12/nyregion/12about.html?_r=1

²⁸ <http://www.mediapost.com/blogs/raw/?p=2351>

²⁹ <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703961104575226314165586910.html>

³⁰ <http://techcrunch.com/2010/05/11/yelp-security-hole-puts-facebook-user-data-at-risk-underscores-problems-with-instant-personalization/>

³¹ <http://gizmodo.com/5535298/how-to-force-anyone-to-follow-you-on-twitter>

³² <http://www.facebook.com/press/releases.php?p=9176#!/press/releases.php?p=164155>

³³ http://www.comicbookbin.com/LinkedIn_Twitter001.html

³⁴ <http://ftc.gov/opa/2010/06/twitter.shtm>

³⁵ <http://www.wired.com/threatlevel/2010/06/foursquare-privacy/>

³⁶ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/8798906.stm>

³⁷

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9178993/Facebook_slapped_with_class_action_privacy_lawsuit?taxonomyId=70