Facebook Tips Brought to you by Brad Gosse

1. Signing up

Your own name You should use your own name or your nickname if people use it more commonly, to sign up. It's important to ensure that your friends, family and colleagues can find you

2. Your email

Facebook sends out a lot of notifications once you start signing up with various groups and fan pages, apps and even comments. But people can also find you by your email, so you should probably use a personal email account. Check it frequently for friend requests and more. It has to be real though, because Facebook uses it and sometimes your mobile number to verify who you are.

3. Read the terms and conditions

You should always read the terms and conditions on any site, and Facebook is no exception, though, it should be noted that Facebook frequently updates it's TOS causing a lot of outrage in the community. Know where your rights are and read their documentation. g.

4. Search your email

In some cases when you sign up for Facebook, especially if you use a 'free' email system such as hotmail or Gmail, Facebook can search your email addresses and see if anyone in your address book is already on Facebook.

5. Profile information – school, university,

The first piece of profile information Facebook asks for is your School (leaving year), University (leaving year) and Company – this starts the first basic groups links so you can find Alumni and colleagues from work – if you don't want to find anyone there, leave it empty and click skip.

6. Profile information – picture

your photo or avatar doesn't need to be of you, but it's usually a good idea to use a shot of yourself so that people that aren't sure they've found you can add you. Many people change their profile photos weekly though, so you can use just about any image you hold copyright to.

7. Profile information – basic information

Once you've gotten into Facebook, you can fill in any or all personal information on the basic information box, and depending on your security settings, people will be able to see this – it's sometimes the difference between knowing whether it's you or another person that they'll friend, so this information can be useful.

8. Profile information – is Facebook a dating

One of the core pieces of information that Facebook asks about on signup is what you're 'looking' for on the site, along with your religious standing. Don't be afraid to mark 'friendship' in that box, even if you are actively seeking a relationship – it makes little difference to people adding you. Facebook is not a dating site, though there are groups on there for finding partners.

9. Profile information – personal information

Many people don't list all of their hobbiesinstead list the ones you're interested in attracting friends for. If you've got a 'guilty pleasure' remember that people may be able to access your information, even before you add them, so you may not want to publish that. The boxes in this section are entirely optional.

10.Contact information

One of the boxes you can fill in is 'contact information'. Be aware that depending on your security settings (see security and privacy) you may then place your ID out in the 'open' which can open you up to spam or bot contact.

settings (see security and privacy)

12.Profile information – friends

11. Profile information – Network If you're interested in chatting with, or meeting up with people in your region, you can add where you life and join that 'uber-group'. Some require email addresses or other information that 'proves' affiliation, but Facebook has recently improved that interface, so it works very well. Your network affiliation is listed on your profile, unless you change the security

As we'll explain later, you can keep those that you've added from appearing in your search, but your friends list is always visible. Be careful when adding 'controversial' people in your life, as it's very easy for other friends to use your list to find others to add – the only exception to this is if you add someone with extremely tight unblocked.

security settings

13. Profile information – relationships Facebook allows the listing of relationships in your profile – but until the person you're in a relationship confirms it; you will only be listed as in a relationship. Otherwise you will be tagged as 'in a relationship' but not with whom.

14. Fill as much of it in as possible Remember, you can always come back and

add, or subtract information. It's usually something people don't do often though, so spending those extra few minutes at sign up to create a proper profile is well worth it

15. Security from the outset

We talk more about security later, but some people join Facebook simply to keep up with a tiny group of friends – if you're one of these people, then you will want to ensure your security is as tight as can be (see security and

16. Finding friends, colleagues and 'fan'

Facebook has made it fairly easy to find people and add them, but in the mix with the people you can find are fan pages - which are like mini profiles (we talk about these more in section) and groups. It's important to remember that people, such as authors or local personalities may have multiple listings in search results, so you may need to contact them and ask which to add. You also have to take one extra step to make sure people can find you. You can currently have 5,000 friends total.

Searching by name may bring back dozens of results, so if you know the person well enough, find out what email they use and add them via that. Adding people via email is often easier than searches too because it means you're certain you've got the right person, without opening yourself up to unwanted attention. If you add someone that isn't actually the person you wanted to add, they can see your profile.

18. Adding people via friends

If you're a close knit group of friends, or a new group that met through University or similar pursuit, it's normally ok to go through another friend's list and find those that you know, but don't abuse this – adding everyone from every friend's list can get you flagged as a spammer by Facebook.

19. More than one profile?

Be careful not to create more than one Facebook page – it's against their TOS and can lead to confusion when people add you. It is possible to create a main account and make the rest of your 'accounts' as pages, but again be careful – Facebook has a policy about fake pages, fake names or abusing that facility.

20. Fan pages too much for you?

You can hide fan page (and app, and even 'friend' updates) from view easily by setting your feed up (we talk more about this in the feed management section). Hiding fan pages, even temporarily, can let you get your Facebook reading back under control, and let you decide whether you want to follow them long term.

21.Removing friends, or pages

Removing friends is easy – you just go into your friends list and click the x beside their name. You can find your friend list by looking at the left column of your main feed based Facebook page. Or you can go to 'Account' and then 'edit

22. Using friends lists to organize your

Facebook introduced a concept called 'friends lists' recently, allowing people to sort their friends into groups, sorting them onto groups of your choosing. Have workmates, best friends, limited profile – the choice is yours. You can also edit en masse by selecting 'Account' then 'edit friends' – your whole list will appear there with drop down arrow lists, including your pages. Simply filter them onto a list you're comfortable with and then you can control your

23. Been Blocked?

Facebook is hard to contact in case of problems, but you can sometimes email them at whatever published email contact they currently have, and ask them to review your case - if you've done nothing wrong you should be reinstated. If you were hacked, you should contact support urgently and follow their instructions to regain control and become

24. Got badge?

One of Facebook's nicest widgets is the ability to create badges and display them on your webpage or site. If you've got a reasonably public profile, you can use these easily – if your profile is highly protected and privacy locked, you may want to consider whether you want to use it at all.

25. Looking for more?

If you have just recently joined Facebook, instead of searching for everyone by name, go to another friend's profile and find the people you're looking for by checking their 'friends' box, on the left hand side, below information. Be careful not to add too many people though – it can be seen as spamming and may be picked up by Facebook.

26. Security and privacy

There's a lot of options in Facebook that you have to pay attention to, especially if you don't want to put your information in public. There are options to protect everything that you have on Facebook, creating a stripped out, bare public profile, but you DO need to change your settings, it's not automatic on creation.

27. Use fine grained controls

don't want your family accessing your photos lock them out. Want to only allow reading access to your status updates to people closest to you? You can do that too (though remember, apps use your default posting, which is your overall status posting setting). Go to 'Account' then 'privacy settings and explore your options

28. The tightest locks

If you put everything in your security to 'friends' and remove yourself from search engine results, and then start using Facebook, you'll have to add people, and they'll never be able to do it themselves. If you don't want people knowing you're on Facebook, this is an ideal solution

29. Know your settings!

Understanding what the different settings mean for privacy and posting is what makes or breaks your Facebook usage. There are four settings – 'Everyone', 'Friends of friends', friends only and custom. Friends of friends means that any information you share on your profile can be visible by anyone that has friend any of your friends, opening your profile up to a lot more

30. Your name, date of birth, address and

other information Keeping as much of your information private as you can means that you can protect yourself against identity fraud – this also means not adding random people and practicing safe login and logout practices. Facebook is rife with mistakes that have opened people up to identity fraud, but knowing your way around security settings will stop this.

31. Privacy – profile information

In 'Account', Privacy Settings, you can choose to set your different parts of your profile and information to one of several settings – you can also customize them so that only your own lists of friends get to see certain things. This extra layer of security is incredibly powerful and worth the time it takes to set up.

32. Being harassed by a colleague that you just don't want to add?

Sometimes people don't take no for an answer if you find that someone is continually asking you for an 'add' go to their profile page, scroll down to the bottom and then hit 'Report/Block this person'. Blocking them will stop any unwanted advances – they won't be able to see you at all (or you, them)

33.Apps getting you down?

Did an app you added suddenly change its posting policies? Are you finding that some apps are more invasive than you wanted? Go to 'Account', then 'Application settings'. There, you can remove any you no longer want to use, change posting policies (in some cases) and more. Since Facebook changed how apps notify people, their 'notification' feeds have been a lot less cluttered, but notifications now appear in the left side bar, which confuses some people.

34. Don't let Google see you

If Google using what little of your profile is visible after you've adjusted your security settings to your perfect level of privacy makes you nervous, you can tell all search engines that you don't want them to view your profile by going to 'Account, privacy settings, search and

search engines' and unchecking the box beside 'public search engine'. If you've got good security settings and are happy for your name and photo to appear, have a look at the preview before checking it. There is very little on the

average profile, including no updates.

Sometimes, people lose control of their Facebook account – this could be because of a virus, or worse. You can regain control by following the instructions by following Facebook's own guidelines. It's important to do a virus scan as soon as you discover you've been hacked – just in case – do that before returning to the site to reclaim your profile.

36. Photos and videos – don't appear where

you don't want to Along with all other privacy settings – be especially careful about your movie and photo settings. It's important that you keep your video and photo settings as private as you can – if you're tagged in either, it displays them to the 'world' at large based on your settings. If you lock your video and photo options to minimum, friends only, you can be sure that embarrassing items will be kept to just your circle, rather than any Google Cache.

37. The best phone app?

There is no one 'best' app for Facebook on each mobile platform, so look around and see if you can find a highly recommended one sometimes phones come with bundled apps, or built in API access – which, if you're a social animal your phone can be a lifesaver. Be aware that most apps are limited, as are most phone based browsers.

38. Tweetdeck? Tweetdeck is a twitter poster that has expanded to take in other places like Facebook, and comes highly recommended on any PC or laptop. It has a tiny memory footprint and gives you unparalleled access to a lot of feeds at once. Beware its API call on twitter though (at 150 an hour). Facebook currently has no limitations.

39. Automatic posting?

Some people use automatic posting to allow them to post information at set times, though Facebook's TOS seems to be a little grey about this. Being careful and only posting relevant information will allow you to connect and network in a way it was designed to allow.

40. Facebook connect

Facebook connect is a handy extension of the Facebook login and API, tying various things back to your profile, or allowing you to interact with other sites, or programs using your Facebook credentials. This can be a good and a bad thing – if the interaction causes constant posting to your feed, people may find it annoying, but it also means you've got a centralized login.

41. Lifestreaming Lifestreaming allows you to pull all of your feeds into one place and Facebook offers several widgets based on what you need for your site go to Facebook's widget page – or search the internet for information on how to use your feeds in interesting ways offsite.

42. Posting updates

The main basis of Facebook is the ability to post short (420 character) updates – you can tag friends in these by going @ (name) or simply tell people what you're up to. Some people take part in mini games in these too – the choice is only limited by character length.

43. Auto subscribing

Commenting or liking someone's status or notes or anything else in their feed will automatically 'subscribe' you to notifications about any future activity. You can reply to this however, from your email, which means you don't need to log into the site constantly.

44. The notification bar At the top of the page, there is a blue bar with

you've subscribed to by participating in it. 45. Your newsfeed Your news feed comes with several options you can read the most 'important' stuff (based on Facebook's algorithm), or the most recent

posts. Missing friends? Scroll to the bottom

box – it'll remove all limitations on your feed.

and click 'edit options'. Put 5000 in the bottom

four icons – this is your quick overview of any

activity aimed at you. This includes anything

'hide' – you'll get different options based on what sort of update you've hovered over.

46. Not interested in a friend's updates right

If for whatever reason, you don't want to see a

friend's update (for example, their updates are

only about games you don't play) you can hover

over their update, and a box will appear saying

47. Walls You can have a public discussion by posting something on someone's wall. This appears in your feed and there, so is great for congratulating someone, or wishing them a happy birthday. Walls are public though, based on the person's settings

48. Boxes and tabs

Various apps will allow you to add boxes and tabs to your profile. Boxes appear on a page, and are small – tabs are headings much like a filing cabinet. These can give you the ability to display key information on your pages, or in separate 'sub pages' but can also clutter your profile page – be careful what you place and

49. A box on your profile

There is a box on your profile, (when you click view profile) which can be readily edited and contains some key information that you choose Some people use it to show others their calendar; others display a quote or some mini information. Use this as best you see fit to give your friends and new adds something interesting to read.

50. Left hand side – your profile

Your profile has several key areas to interact with – the middle where your feed is, your left hand side, to access your stuff) and the right hand side which has suggestions, your gifts and other items from apps, and some other things, such as pokes.

51. Messages – your messages are your internal email inbox.

This gives you the opportunity to message people without writing on their wall (see the previous tip) or start a discussion between friends – if you're doing this frequently see our tips on pages and groups.

You can set up events – a bit like a calendar, people can RSVP and you can use it to invite friends to anything you're doing, from a birthday party at your place, to a gaming party or Guild event in your favorite MMORPG. Use it to organize social events without worrying about lost emails.

53. Removing events you can't attend Once you have declined an event, you can then remove it from your events list – simply open up the event, optionally leave a note apologizing for not attending then directly below the image on the right hand side, there is an option

54. Photos and videos Your photos and videos list item will let you access any photos that are tagged of you (remembering your privacy settings) and review them. You can also remove tags at any time –

which means even though you are in the photo,

55. Applications

it won't list in your stream.

'remove from my events'.

All of your applications are accessible from this tab – it will take you through to a list of most used and when, and will also give you options to access others. This is a great tab to review what apps you do - and don't - use and remove them to save them cluttering your feed, or visit them and check what's new. You can also search for new apps from there.

56. Games

Much like the applications menu option, the games option shows you when you've played, whether your friends play (and how many) and allows you to explore popular games amongst your friends and the wider Facebook population that you may not have seen yet.

57. Ads and pages

We talk more about ads and pages in their own section (Part 5 – ads and pages) but this is how you access them quickly, and if you choose to advertise them, set up Adsense like adverts.

58. Groups

Your groups' menu item is actually the access to your pages and groups, two columned lists with each showing recent activity and more. You can easily view the things you may have missed simply by checking the recent activity on these

59. Notes Notes are a bit like mini blogs, or can be used by you to import RSS feeds and automatically post. Its Facebook's own solution to lifestreaming, but only allows you to import one RSS feed at time. You could build a Yahoo pipe of everything you wanted to import and use that as your 'uber feed' if you had a lot of blogs though, so it works out well

60. Links

Your links menu option is a lot like Del.icio.us – every time you post a link, it's added to this list, and you can view what your friends have been posting recently, or just keep track of your own

61. Right hand side

The right hand side of your page contains any application items (such as gifts – be aware that these build up really fast), friend suggestions, information on inactive friends, pokes and event listings (that you've accepted).

62. Gifts and application notices Facebook has suggested that eventually these will all be incorporated into the left bar of the site, where your games are listed, but for now you will still get listings of any gifts, invites to games or any other requests (including friend requests) in that top right corner. You should

keep on top of them – 20 invites a day leads to

140 at the end of a week and it can be time

consuming to prune them weekly.

63. Application notices out of control Sometimes, no matter how hard you try your application lists will get out of control. You can either dedicate time to fixing them, or quit from the app in question – by clicking 'ignore app'

You can also ignore a friend's invites, but not

the friend themselves... Reload the page and

any you've ignored should be gone.

64. Suggestions

Facebook has an algorithm that chooses information to show you – when people friend other people, sometimes you will have suggestions – as they do with pages and groups. These suggestions and they can't see your profile (and until they add you, you won't see their whole profile). Suggestions can be

65. Poking

hidden or ignored.

Poking allows a person to see your profile (even if they aren't their friend). If they are your friend, it will give them a message the next time they log into their Facebook in the right hand bar of their page. Any pokes you've received will be here too for you to respond to.

66. Events

You will see a list of any events you're confirmed to attend in your sidebar – this is a great feature because you can simply align your diary by reading that area and booking it into your time management system of choice. You can also click through and turn down events, or see who else is attending.

67. Ads

If you have used Facebook to place an ad, you will find that they appear in the right hand bar. If you keep seeing an ad, you can report it so Facebook can fix their algorithm for showing them, or hide them entirely from you.

68. Under the picture

You can view their profile by clicking on their picture in your feed. Once there, you can poke them, view videos and photos of them, or send them a message. Below that is information that they've made available to friends lists, including relationship status. It's a good way to catch up with someone you haven't seen in a while, then reach out and contact them.

69. Commenting on their wall You can leave people public messages on their walls – as they can do on yours – just click in the status box and write what you'd like them to see – remember though, it also posts in your

70. Adding apps or boxes your friend has If you see something really interesting that your friend has, click through – and add the app they're using by following the instructions. If you've seen a Facebook page that is exactly how you'd like yours to be, click through and

feed, so be careful what you say.

create items as you can.

71. Commenting

You can comment from your own feed, or if you've gone over to a friend's profile (which is a good idea just in case they've been bumped out of your algorithm based feed) and comment there. Comments have a length limit, but you can split it over several boxes and it will stack correctly.

72. Tagging

You can tag a friend, or yourself in most photos you have access to – be aware that some people dislike being tagged in photos, so if your friend frequently removes tags of him or herself, maybe you shouldn't tag them. Any tags of people in videos or photos or notes will appear in their stream.

73. Group or page?

A page is basically a mini profile – a group has a more group centric feel to its 'front' page, but there's very little difference between them in reality. There are no current accurate figures posted on limits to pages and groups, so there may not be any – but be careful to join an 'official' group or fan page belonging to the official entity – there are many unofficial fans and groups on Facebook, and it's not highly policed at present.

74. Pages and apps

Some apps can post to pages as if they were profiles – much like fully fledged Facebook profiles, pages can have most of the features of a 'real' profile, so adding apps to them may be a possibility, depending on the app in question. Explore your options carefully though, because if an app is posting to your main profile, and your page, people following both will get duplicate content

75. Groups

Groups are like clubs offline – you choose who can join and how wide its access is. Much like other parts of Facebook, it has its own wall, which everyone can post to. Pages have two one for the owner to post to, one for fans to post to, and then it all feeds into one amalgamated stream.

76. Running both

Many people consider Facebook to be a place for allegiances – groups would then represent (casual) memberships and interaction in clubs, pages could be considered a greater endorsement or badge of interest, so running both isn't a bad thing.

77. Causes There are specific apps for causes on

Facebook, but if you're passionate about something, starting a group, or page is a great way to go - remember to make others admin (in edit membership on the group or page's main page) so you're not the only one in charge. 78. Ads

You can place your own ads on Facebook – and

they run a lot like Adsense ads in most cases.

You'll need to condense whatever message you

want to 'send' into very short sentences, but these ads are targetable and very powerful.

79. Farmville Farmville is one of the most popular game apps on Facebook and allows you to run your own farm, grow your own (virtual) crops, tend animals and more. Its simplistic interface allows anyone to play easily. A similar game is Farm Town, but the mechanics are only slightly

different. 80. Crops

Try to think about how often you check your Facebook – if you're planting crops, make sure you'll be able to come online to harvest them, or they are a waste of space and coins. As the more crops you harvest and the more crops you plant has a relation to your level, planning your crops carefully will allow you to maximize your game play, and afford items you may need.

81. Harvesting

When you harvest your crops in Farmville they sell automatically - the same can be said for animals or trees. Farm town stores all of and you can go to your harvests in a box market and sell them.

82. Vehicles and storage

and tractor – they will allow you to manage much larger farms, but require fuel. You can save up coins to buy them instead of paying real money for Farmville cash. The same thing can be said for buildings – some are limited edition though, so can only be bought with cash.

As soon as you can, get a harvester, seeder

83. Fuel

Fuel is used to run vehicles – but it's finite and rechargeable. You can also buy fuel using cash, but larger farms use up fuel before you've finished your harvesting, plowing and planting, so remember that whatever you choose to do, you'll have to still do some 'manual' work.

84. Is Farmville cash worth it? Depending on many factors, including how competitive you are, and whether you want exclusive items, any app that allows you to buy special credits can be worth it. Don't buy them if you're a casual player though.

85. Collectables, and projects

86. iPhone app

Facebook.

89. Bejeweled posts

this.

Farmville has a mechanism to build things like stables – your friends list has to send you component parts, and then you can build a stable, or expand your storage. This can be frustrating however if they need a lot of pieces. Patience will get you there, and until then keep posting about it every few days by clicking on the building and sharing via that box.

Facebook (via connect) and allows you to post your score to Facebook. It is well worth the money, giving you four mini games in one -

Bejeweled's iPhone app links with the game on

and another way to play while you're waiting

somewhere without computer access.

87. Sign up for the competition Bejeweled offers a free competition and includes the scores from your iPhone app in the updates on site – which allows you to simply join in on the draw, even when you're not on

88. Two different styles of game

Bejeweled onsite recently introduced special bonus crystals and more, giving another variation to the one minute blitz style game. Using the ones that fit with your play style can maximize your score. Bejeweled on the iPhone hasn't had these introduced yet.

reach a points target – sometimes you'll post a

planning on playing for a while, you can cancel

lot in a row, which can be annoying. If you're

posting (as you can with any other app) and

90. Mafia Wars/Vampire Wars

crops or care for animals.

92. Adding friends

93. Gifts

Both Mafia Wars and Vampire wars are

basically the same game, with some minor

cash or credits to use in special parts of the

game, but unlike Farmville, you don't 'grow'

91. Finish jobs even if you're leveled up

onto another level (set) of quests, but you

should stay on the lower level ones and

Mafia wars and vampire wars allow you to move

complete them if you can – it's a long process in

most cases, but it does mean that you get extra

Maxing out the completion also gives you cool

skill points, and sometimes, in game cash.

titles and other stuff that you can't otherwise

It's important to remember that not everyone

people, don't do it constantly. If you're new to

look out for those that play, and ask them to add

Sending gifts or elements from a game will also

connection. Similarly, you can only send one a

day, so choose wisely – if a friend is completing

achievements, levels, or important milestones -

if that's all that makes up your feed, you may

find that your friends complain – or don't read

Like every other app, you can remove any apps

that are interfering with your profile, or posting

complain if it posts too often - if that happens,

privileges, or if you're not playing at all, remove

too often – you may find that your friends

you can simply change the app's posting

invite people to the game – so be careful who

you send gifts to – they may have either

blocked the game, or will remove you as a

wants to play these games, so if you invite

Facebook, and your friends are inviting you,

you, or sign up and invite them.

a collection go for that.

anything you post at all.

95. Removing games

94. Posting your achievements

Most games allow you to post your

variations - again, like Farmville, you can buy

post the last one. Your friends will appreciate

company of choice. Bejeweled will post to your profile whenever you

While all these tips cover the mechanics of networking and beyond, it's important to remember that you should always try to enjoy

also good advertising for the 'cause' or

More than 400 Million Active

50% of Users Log On Every Day

update their status each day More than 60 million status

content shared each week More than 3.5 million events

created each month

More than 3 million active Pages on Facebook

Facebook More than 20 million people become fans of Pages each day

the site

Average user spends more than 55 minutes per day on Facebook

each month

each month Average user becomes a fan of 4

pages in Section 3)? Be careful though - those that have you as a friend and have fanned you will get more double updates from your blogs.

97. Network blogs also allows you to follow

it by going to Account, application settings and

Did you know that Networked Blogs also allows

you to post to your own page (we talk about

96. Networked blogs lets you share your

hitting the X beside the game name.

other blogs Including your friends and some of the biggest blogs on the web. If you have a list of friends that you like to read, consider following them on Facebook – if they're there, their blogs will be inserted into your feeds easily.

98. Networked Blogs or importing notes? (See 2nd section for more information on notes) Notes are a great way of simply posting a lot of content to your feed, while Networked Blogs has features that blend importing RSS with a group – you can have people fan and rate your blog, have a discussions area and more. It all

99. Integrating other networks

depends on your community needs.

Facebook has a lot of 'bridge' applications, which allow you to integrate external social networking sites, such as Flikr and twitter into your feeds. These powerful tools can take a while to set up, but are well worth it if you regularly use the sites you're linking up.

100. Horoscopes and more Like everywhere else on the web, Facebook has facilities to post horoscopes and more - if

that your friends use and post it.

101. Developing your own Facebook has a powerful API that allows you to develop just about anything based on a framework – so developing something that you think other people might like to play is easy. It's

you're interested in that sort of thing, find one

yourself. Facebook is a social site – be social and enjoy everything it has to offer!

Facebook User Statistics

More than 35 million users

More than 3 billion photos uploaded to the site each month

updates posted each day

More than 5 billion pieces of

More than 1.5 million local

businesses have active Pages on

Average user has 130 friends on

Average user sends 8 friend requests per month

Average user clicks the Like button on 9 pieces of content

Average user writes 25 comments on Facebook content

Pages each month Average User belongs to 13

groups