

# Social Media Account Hacks

*Learn about what to do if your social media account has been hacked*

## 1. What Is a Social Media Account Hack?

This sort of hack can happen with any type of social media account. A hacker may gain control of your account in order to steal your information and/or use your account to send out things like phishing schemes.

Scams work better when they seem to come from someone you know, which is why hackers try to gain access to your account and send out phishing schemes.

Social media accounts also contain a good deal of personal information, which hackers can use and sell on the dark web.

## 2. Which Social Media Accounts Do You Use?

Keep track of your accounts and your privacy settings for each account here. Are you spotting areas where you can improve your account security?

Use this space to list your social media accounts

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## Privacy & Security

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What security settings do you have? Consider the following:

- Password strength
- Multi-factor authentication
- Account security settings

Use this space to reflect on which security settings you have already enabled. You may find you need to log into your accounts or open your apps to find out.

### 3. Spotting a Hack

Have you been the victim of a social media account hack? How could you tell? Use this space to reflect on a time when you may have had your account hacked. If you're lucky enough to have avoided this, think back to a time when you heard about an account hack taking place. What were the telltale signs?

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If and when the time comes, you can use this list and the signs you noted just above, to help determine if one of your social media accounts has been hacked.:

- Strange login activities
- A password that changed without your knowledge
- Changed settings
- A new profile picture
- Posts you did not make
- New followers or messages from people you do not know
- Missing information
- Your contacts are getting weird messages from you
- Deactivated or suspended account
- Trouble logging in (or you are unable to login at all)

## 4. Steps to Take if You've Been Hacked

In the event that you learn of an hack that affects your social media profile(s), use this list to keep track of the actions you could take:

- Change your password
- Making sure your account links to the correct recovery email and phone number
- Reset your account settings and check your privacy settings
- Clean up any unwanted activity
  - Delete posts you didn't make
  - Fix your profile picture if needed
  - Unfollow or block accounts that messaged or followed you during the hack
- Warn others that your account was compromised
- Report the hack to the social media company
- Implement stronger security like multi-factor authentication if you don't have it set up already
- If you feel comfortable, report the hack or any phishing scam you may have fallen victim to to law enforcement