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Social networking has certainly evolved to become a very relevant part of one's online lifestyle. Today, there are several networking websites available that targets different niches—whether it's for basic social communication, business affiliations, hobbies, crafts, you name it. There is one site out there that will cater to likeminded individuals who share the same interests and they are available in one online repository.

Facebook, for instance, is one of the biggest social networking sites today and the ease by which it can keep you updated with the comings and goings of the lives of friends and families abroad makes it an integral part of how you now keep in touch with them. Unknowingly however, this might also make you vulnerable to a lot of threats online. And makes it essential for you to seek protection against identity theft.

For all the perks that Facebook provides, it's also the easiest way for a hacker or a cyber-attacker to gain access to personal information online. It's important that you configure your settings to ensure that you do not become a victim of identity theft. So before you log back on to Facebook, be sure to look into the criteria below so as not to compromise your privacy online. After all, the first step against Identity theft protection is to make sure that your online presence is kept private.

1. Do not accept friend requests from strangers. Approve requests only if you are sure that you have met that person. It's a simple way to avoid potential attacks and online intrusions.
2. Do not post your phone number or home address online.
3. Share photos only to a limited number of individuals as this leaves your images very vulnerable to misuse.
4. Social network privacy is important. It's easy to dismiss the long documents detailing it, however, it's important for you to read through it and consider if the information that you will make available online is something that you will be comfortable with.
5. Change the default Facebook's security settings—this can help you protect your privacy better.
6. While sharing videos, photos and any personal events, ensure that your settings limit it only to friends.

Social networking is fun, but it's not a medium to broadcast every single detail of your life on the Internet. And following these simple steps will give you the opportunity to protect yourself from online identity theft.

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<http://www.articleside.com/internet-articles/social-network-privacy-an-essential-tool-for-the-virtually-connected.htm> - [Article Side](#)

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