

Hackers, scammers and fake friends on apps and games

Everyone loves apps and games, including hackers, scammers and fake friends. If you have a social media profile or an online gaming account, set your profile to private and think about what you share and with who. This will make it harder for anyone you don't know or want to know to pop up in your DMs.

Having a strong password is also a good safeguard so remember to have a different password for every app and game. Think a mix of upper and lower cases letters, characters and numbers and not your pets/besties name/your birthday.

This guide will show you how to:

- Create a strong password
- Set your accounts to private
- Keep your location private
- Block or remove followers
- Report inappropriate content
- Get more help if you need it



Why is this important?

Getting hacked means a total stranger can see all your personal information and photos, change your posts or profiles, or even pretend to be you online. Setting your account to private also makes it much harder for people you don't know to contact you, pretend to be your friend and send you pics or content that can make you feel uncomfortable or is inappropriate.

How to create a strong password

Strong passwords should have a mix of upper-case and lower-case letters, numbers and symbols in them.

Make sure your password has nothing to do with your name, birthday or address.

Change your passwords regularly.

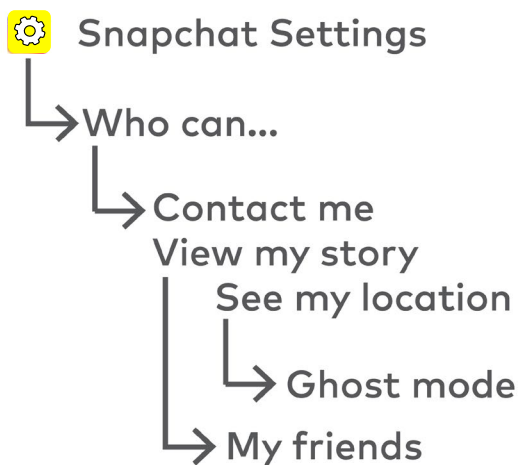
Ask Yourself

- Why do apps and games have age limits?
- Who can contact me if my profile is public?
- Who can contact me if my profile is private?
- What could I do if a stranger contacted me with content that made me uncomfortable?
- How could I protect myself from being contacted by strangers?
- Do I have a strong password?
- Do I understand what multi-factor authentication is and why it is used?

Use at least 10 characters, although the longer the better. Longer passwords take longer to crack.

Don't keep passwords on your phone or computer.

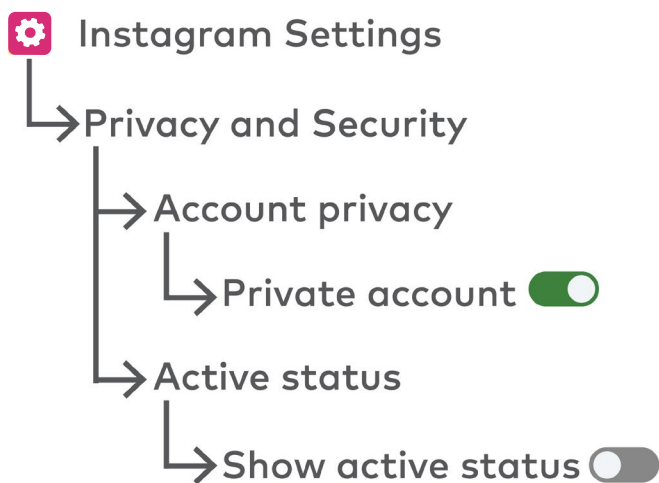
Exploring Privacy Settings on Popular Apps



In the 'Who can...' section of your profile settings on Snapchat you control who can see your content and who can contact you directly. Choosing 'My friends' for all of these options does not give strangers the opportunity to interact with you.

If you enable 'ghost mode' your location will be kept private and your bitmoji will not appear on the Snapmap.

Block or remove followers → You can block or remove people by going to their profile.



Setting your account to private means that only your approved followers have access to your information, posts, comments and other followers.

You can control your privacy and visibility settings in the 'Privacy and Security' menu on Instagram.

Block or remove followers → You can block or unfollow people by going to their profile.





Exploring Privacy Settings on Popular Apps



TikTok Settings



Privacy and Security



Private account



Allow others to find me



When you create an account on Tik Tok it is automatically made public so it is your responsibility to engage all safety settings on your profile.

To ensure that you are uncontactable by strangers and/or predators, follow these steps:



Fortnite Privacy



Open 'friends' list



Social settings menu



Auto decline friend requests

There have been reports of hackers using Fortnite accounts to steal players' information and people pretending to be young using the game as a way to connect with underage players.

You can change your privacy settings on the device you are playing on to protect your information and can control who can contact you in the game itself.

Xbox and Playstation

Find your account or gamer tag and update your privacy settings



Exploring Privacy Settings on Popular Apps



Facebook Settings

Profile settings

View privacy shortcuts

How people
can find and
contact you

Check a few
important settings

Manage your location
settings

Block or unfollow

Some of your information is always public, such as your name and profile picture but you can control which other information is made public. You can control who sees what information in your profile and privacy settings.

You can control which apps have access to your location in your phone's settings.

You can review which other apps or websites you've used Facebook to log into. These websites can then use your information.

You can block or remove people by going to their profile.

How to report inappropriate content

The eSafety Commissioner is Australia's national independent regulator for online safety. The Office of the eSafety Commissioner has developed an **eSafety Guide** with reporting links and information for a range of social media services, games, apps and sites. Reporting of inappropriate images, content, and cyberbullying can also be made directly to <https://www.esafety.gov.au/report>

What to do if you need more help



If you ever see or receive anything online that makes you feel unsafe or uncomfortable, you should discuss it with your friends or a trusted adult. You can also call Kids Helpline, Australia's only free, private and confidential 24/7 phone and online counselling service for 5 to 25 year olds. **1800 55 1800** [kidshelpline.com.au](https://www.kidshelpline.com.au)

About Optus Digital Thumbprint

Optus Digital Thumbprint is a free and award-winning educational program that supports young people and families to be safe, responsible and positive online.

Since 2013, we've delivered workshops and developed digital tools that have educated more than 320,000 primary and secondary school students across Australia.