

# Facebook



Steve Hewitt - [steve@ccmag.com](mailto:steve@ccmag.com)

I have had a Facebook site for some time, but haven't really been using it. Only recently, at the persistence of my family (grin) did I start to use it to stay connected. However, I soon discovered that many readers of Christian Computing were connecting as friends and leaving comments, and I have completely enjoyed the experience. I had been using LinkedIn as my professional network service, but have discovered Facebook is a nice addition, and, it works great

with my iPhone, allowing me to keep up-to-date and communicate with family and friends throughout the day. If you use Facebook, come find me.

## What about the Privacy Issue?

Recently, Facebook has been in the news, due to a change in their license agreement. They had stated in the past (and I am paraphrasing here) that when and if you decided to cancel your Facebook account, all of your information would be deleted. Recently, they changed their license agreement and removed this claim from the agreement. This caused an uproar once it was discovered, with privacy experts questioning what Facebook was going to do with your personal information, and why they wouldn't be deleting it if you left them.

Facebook has responded, and again, I am going to phrase it the way I understood it. They stated that they were not really changing any policy, but that the previous statements about removing all of your information were misleading. Here's why. If you are on Facebook, and you do that "thing" where you write on someone's wall, and then you cancel your account, Facebook is not going through all of their user base and purging anything and everything you have shared on other people's sites. So, they couldn't make the statement that all of your information would be deleted if you left. Frankly, I am not sure any of us would want that. If someone had shared a photo, and then others had left comments, it would make a person's site look silly if people's comments were left about a photo that is no longer there. So, Facebook thought that removing the claim to remove ALL information would simply better state the way Facebook works. I believe they have reinserted the phrasing, assuring customers that if they

leave, all of the information on their site will be deleted, but, information you posted on another person's site will remain.

There are obviously some advertisements that show up on my site that I do not appreciate. And, I know there are dangers out there for minors and predators that use such social networking sites to stalk. However, there is also a strong Christian presence on Facebook, and I am glad to see we are not just giving these new technologies over to the world, but have taken His light to the place millions hang out.

Together We Serve Him,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and strokes.

Steve Hewitt  
Follow me on Twitter too!