

LAPTTOP EXERCISES

CONTACT & EMAIL: Social networking: Facebook

Facebook is a social networking site with about 250 million active users across the world. You might know a small proportion of this number in your family and friends. In basic terms you create a **'profile'** that contains as many details of you as you wish which is retained on the Facebook server. Once you have a profile, you can **search** for other people's profiles and add them as friends. People update their profile with details of what they are doing, where they are going and how they are feeling in their **'status updates'**. Once you have added somebody as a friend, every time they update their status or details, it will appear in the **'news feed'** on your profile so you know what's going on.

Once you are signed into Facebook, there are **applications** you can use, **forums** to join and **groups** to look at.

Click **START, Programs, Internet Explorer** (or the programme you use to browse the internet).

In the address bar, type www.facebook.com and **GO**. Type in your username and password or create a new user name usually using your email address.

A Profile:

Profile picture – change at will!



Personal details – some people put minimal details, some people put everything! Providing you understand who is looking at the information posted, it's entirely up to you how much information you reveal.

Photos – this is where I can upload photos and my friends can see them. It's not a bad back up system either!

My friends – these are all the people I have confirmed as friends of mine. They will see all the information that I put on my profile.

It is important when you create your profile to adjust who can see the information you put on your profile. So, when you create your profile, go into **'settings'** and then **'privacy'** and check each of the sections listed. The easiest way to do it is to set everything to **'friends only'** can see your information. Without this, you may be contacted by any of the 250 million users mentioned above! Remember, though, friendships come and go and whatever you put on your profile can be seen by anybody you have accepted as a friend, past or present!

RRAVS
132 High Street, Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 7BX
Tel & Fax 01268 775255
E-mail: rravs@rravs.org.uk
Website: www.rravs.org.uk



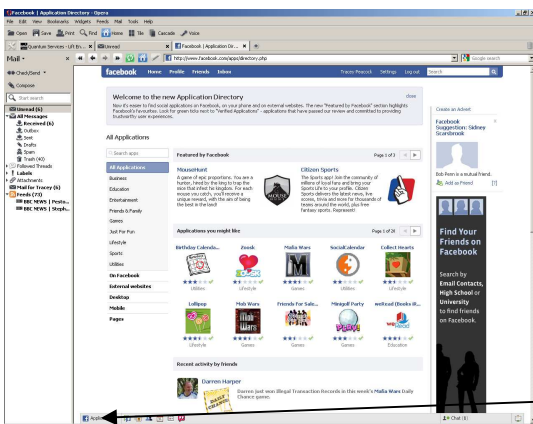
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News feed & wall

The **home** tab is usually the first page you see when you log into Facebook. When your friends type in a comment about how they feel or what they are doing, it shows up on the **news feed**. This is called a **status update**. You then have the opportunity to **comment** on your friend's status.

The **wall** page is where all your activity is shown and where people can contact you directly. For example, the picture above shows my wall. On it is listed, in date order, thumbnails of the photos that I have uploaded to my profile, messages from friends who have written on my wall and what I have been doing whilst logged into facebook – playing games usually!

Bear in mind that anything you write or comment on is published on your own and others' profiles so, if you want something to be private, send a message via the **inbox** instead.



Applications

Applications are programs designed to be used within Facebook. Games are a good example of this, such as Poker or Scrabble type word games. If you and a friend are both signed into Facebook you can play each other.

The first time you use an application you need to give permission for it to access your facebook profile. Once you do that, it will show in your specific list of applications.

Search

You can use this facility to search for people, pages, groups or applications. For example, I typed in 'Katherine Jenkins' in the search box. The results came back with 151 people, 2 pages and 85 groups. The people are individual's profiles as described above. The pages are usually dedicated to the person or subject in question and are similar to an individual's profile although you can 'become a fan' of that page. The groups are more like a club, where discussions can take place, events can be published. See our group for Rochford Computer Club.

