

Willie's Wonkey Computer Factory

Last month we looked at Facebook and I hope you had some fun setting up an account! However, after all that effort of uploading photos, filling in all the personal details and catching up with friends, it may be that Facebook just isn't for you. The problem you have now is deleting your account. Facebook is clever. They don't want to lose you and try as you might you will not find any means of truly deleting everything about yourself until now.

Don't get confused by their '**Deactivate your Account**' button in the user interface. Deactivating still leaves all your profile and photos up there. You can **still** be tagged in photos, invites etc so deactivating is really pretty much worthless. Particularly when their Terms of Service states - '*....you grant us non-exclusive, transferable, sub-licensable, royalty-free, worldwide licence to use any IP content that you post on or in connection with Facebook*' and that still applies when you deactivate. So, how do you **really** delete your Facebook account?

First of all, remember that deleting your account will remove **all trace of you**, everything you have entered will be removed, so there's no going back without starting all over again. Ok? Then go here -

www.facebook.com/help/contact.php?show_form=delete_account

You will be asked to confirm. Type in your password and the text shown in the box (known as a **captcha**), then click on 'Okay' to continue. You will be asked to confirm you want to permanently delete your account - press 'Okay' and you are done. Well nearly.

What happens now is that Facebook will only 'deactivate' your account, leaving you 14 days to log back in, should you change your mind! However after the 14 days your account should be deleted. Just don't 'accidentally' log in during that period thus aborting your account nuke process!

My Spyware program keeps finding 'Cookies', what are they?

They are not chocolate chip. A cookie is a small text file placed on your hard drive by a web server. They can be used to keep track of passwords, shopping patterns, what pages you like on a particular site and so on. They are designed to speed up and enhance your use of a particular website when you return. You may have joined a site that requires a 'login' and password, there is usually a 'Remember Me' button. The site will remember you and your preferences by using cookies.

A cookie by itself can't read or damage your hard drive. The only way a site gets personal information about you is if YOU provide it. Personally I don't worry about cookies, they are generally more helpful than harmful, just always be careful about the personal information you give out.

Willie