

QuickLinks Update

<http://www.qlinks.net/update/update.htm>

The 3 Facebook Settings Every User Should Check Now

(ReadWriteWeb)

by Sarah Perez. In December, Facebook made a series of bold and controversial changes regarding the nature of its users' privacy on the social networking site. Those of you who edited your privacy settings prior to December's change have nothing to worry about - that is, assuming you elected to keep your personalized settings when prompted by Facebook's "transition tool." The tool, a dialog box explaining the changes, appeared at the top of Facebook homepages this past month with its own selection of recommended settings. Unfortunately, most Facebook users likely opted for the recommended settings without really understanding what they were agreeing to. If you did so, you may now be surprised to find that you inadvertently gave Facebook the right to publicize your private information including status updates, photos, and shared links.

<http://www.qlinks.net/update/2010/02/3-facebook-settings-every-user-should.htm>

EU - European Commission calls on social networking companies to improve child safety policies

PRESS RELEASE (9 February 2012)50% of European teenagers give out personal information on the web - according to an EU study - which can remain online forever and can be seen by anybody. Today, Safer Internet Day, the European Commission is passing a message to teenagers: "Think before you post!" It welcomed actions to protect children using social networking websites taken by the 20 companies who signed the Safer Social Networking Principles last year. Most of these companies have empowered minors to tackle online risks by making it easier to change privacy settings, block users or delete unwanted comments and content. Yet more needs to be done to protect children online, the Commission says. Less than half of social networking companies (40%) make profiles of under-18 users visible only to their friends by default and only one third replied to user reports asking for help. See also: Safer Internet Day 2010: European Commission assesses social networking sites' approach to safety of under 18s

<http://www.qlinks.net/update/2010/02/eu-european-commission-calls-on-social.htm>

Facebook is the new threat to Google

(Guardian)

More people are coming to US news sites via Facebook and other social networking sites such as Twitter ? supplanting Google News, which had been one of the primary sources of readers, according to research by the metrics company Hitwise. During the past year, the proportion of traffic that Facebook sends to US media sites has tripled from around 1.2% to 3.52%, while that sent by Google News has remained roughly static, at around 1.4%.

<http://www.qlinks.net/update/2010/02/facebook-is-new-threat-to-google.htm>

EU - Safer Internet Day banner

(Twitpic)

Safer Internet Day 2010 banner at the European Commission's Berlaymont building in Brussels

<http://www.qlinks.net/update/2010/02/eu-safer-internet-day-banner.htm>

Facebook dominates UK mobile use

(BBC)

Facebook dominates the lives of mobile internet users in the UK, according to figures from a mobile industry body. The social network accounts for nearly half of all the time people in the UK spend going online using their phones. The data, from the GSM Association (GSMA), showed that people in the UK spent around 2.2bn minutes browsing the social network during December alone

<http://www.qlinks.net/update/2010/02/facebook-dominates-uk-mobile-use.htm>

Internet Addiction Spins Web of Depression

(WebMD)

Internet users who are compulsive about going online and have more social interactions in virtual worlds than the real one may be depressed, according to a new study. Some Internet users retreat from real-life interaction and opt for chat rooms and social networking sites, and this can have an adverse effect on mental health, researchers say in the Feb. 10 issue of [Psychopathology](#). "This type of addictive surfing can have a serious impact on mental health," lead author Catriona Morrison, DPhil, of the University of Leeds, says in a news release. "The Internet now plays a huge part in modern life, but its benefits are accompanied by a darker side."

<http://www.qlinks.net/update/2010/02/internet-addiction-spins-web-of.htm>

Teen blogging replaced by Facebook status updates

(IDG)

Blogging is becoming a thing of the past for teens and young adults, who are now far more likely to keep in touch with friends on social networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace, according to a new study [Social Media and Young Adults](#) by Pew Internet & American Life Project.

<http://www.qlinks.net/update/2010/02/teen-blogging-replaced-by-facebook.htm>

An engineer's perspective on privacy

(European Public Policy Blog)

Ever wondered what data Google's search engine collects and why we retain search logs for certain periods of time? Here's a hint: it's not to personalise advertising as many people wrongly assume. Our first ever Brussels Tech Talk was about this and other questions on online privacy, given that it was Data Protection Day. Dr Alma Whitten, Google's engineering lead for privacy, addressed a full room of policy makers and other interested stakeholders. Alma demonstrated how we harness the power of data to "learn from the good guys, fight the bad guys, and invent the future." You can watch the video of the talk, and follow along with her presentation.

<http://www.qlinks.net/update/2010/02/engineers-perspective-on-privacy.htm>

OSCE asks Turkey to change the laws allowing Internet blocking

(EDRI-gram)

OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) Media Freedom representative Miklos Haraszti asked the Turkish Government to change their Internet law in order to observe OSCE commitments and other international standards protecting freedom of expression. A survey analyzing Turkey's Internet Law has shown that the Turkish authorities were able to block the access to Internet of about 3700 websites. These sites included foreign websites such as YouTube, Geocities, DailyMotion and Google, blocked by court orders and administrative blocking orders issued by the Telecommunications Communication Presidency (TIB). The study also shows a lack of transparency in relation to the blocking orders issued either by the court or TIB and the fact that TIB has not made public the blocking statistics since May 2009. The OSCE representative considers that some of the reasons for blocking sites are "arbitrary and political, and therefore incompatible with OSCE's freedom of expression commitments."

<http://www.qlinks.net/update/2010/02/osce-asks-turkey-to-change-laws.htm>

A world of connections - a special report on social networking

(Economist)

Online social networks are changing the way people communicate, work and play, and mostly for the better.

<http://www.qlinks.net/update/2010/02/world-of-connections-special-report-on.htm>

EU - Commission launches legal action against Italy over databases for telemarketing purposes

(RAPID)

The European Commission has taken legal action against Italy for not respecting EU ePrivacy rules. According to EU law, subscribers who are included in a public subscriber directory must be informed about the objectives of the directory and consent to the use of their personal data contained therein for marketing purposes. As Italy failed to comply with this obligation, the Commission decided to send a letter of formal notice (the first step of an infringement proceeding).

<http://www.qlinks.net/update/2010/02/eu-commission-launches-legal-action.htm>

EU - New Telecoms Regulator gets to work

(RAPID)

The telecoms regulators of the 27 EU countries have met for the first time in Brussels as members of the new Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC). The new European telecoms regulator BEREC has been established following the adoption by the Council and Parliament of the new EU Telecoms rules in December 2009. See also speeches at the first meeting of the Board of Regulators of BEREC and the Management Committee of the Office 28 January 2010, Egmont Palace Brussels: The important role of the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications by [Neelie Kroes](#) and [Viviane Reding](#)

<http://www.qlinks.net/update/2010/02/eu-new-telecoms-regulator-gets-to-work.htm>

CA - Privacy Commissioner launches public consultations on emerging technologies

(Press Release)

The Privacy Commissioner of Canada announced an upcoming consultation with Canadians on privacy issues related to the online tracking, profiling and targeting of consumers by marketers and other businesses. This will be the first in a series of public consultations focused on emerging technological trends that are likely to have a significant impact on the privacy of Canadians. A second consultation on the privacy issues emerging from the growing movement toward cloud computing will be announced in the near future.

<http://www.qlinks.net/update/2010/02/ca-privacy-commissioner-launches-public.htm>

EU - Privacy: the challenges ahead for the European Union

(RAPID)

Keynote Speech at the Data Protection Day by Viviane Reding, Member of the European Commission responsible for Information Society and Media, 28 January 2010, European Parliament, Brussels. See also [Press Release](#)

http://www.qlinks.net/update/2010/02/eu-privacy-challenges-ahead-for_01.htm

Google publishes privacy principles

(Google Public Policy blog)

Known as Data Privacy Day in North America and Data Protection Day in Europe, 28 January is meant to increase public awareness about privacy in the information age. To mark this occasion, on the Official Google Blog we've unveiled our [Privacy Principles](#), which guide the decisions we make as we create products and services that offer transparency and control.

<http://www.qlinks.net/update/2010/01/google-publishes-privacy-principles.htm>

CA - Web Filters Cause Name Change for a Magazine

(New York Times)

In 1920 the Hudson's Bay Company, which owed much of its early fortune to the trade in beaver pelts, began publishing a magazine for its 250th anniversary, The Beaver. This evolved into a respected magazine about Canadian history, and last week Canada's National History Society, the nonprofit group that now publishes it, decided that the Internet required the magazine to undergo a name change. To be more precise, the title was doomed by a vulgar alternative meaning that causes Web filters at schools and junk mail filters in e-mail programs to block access to material containing the magazine's name.

<http://www.qlinks.net/update/2010/01/ca-web-filters-cause-name-change-for.htm>

UK - Tim Berners-Lee unveils government data project

(BBC)

Web founder Sir Tim Berners-Lee has unveiled his latest venture for the UK government, which offers the public better access to official data. A new website, data.gov.uk, will offer reams of public sector data, ranging from traffic statistics to crime figures, for private or commercial use. The target is to kickstart a new wave of services that find novel ways to make use of the information. Sir Tim was hired by PM Gordon Brown in June 2009 to oversee the project.

<http://www.qlinks.net/update/2010/01/uk-tim-berners-lee-unveils-government.htm>

2010-05-05 AT, Krems - EDem10 - 4th international Conference on E-Democracy

(Danube University Krems)

EDem10 will take place at Danube University Krems, Austria, on 6th and 7th of May 2010. EDem is the leading E-Democracy conference in Europe and the keynote speakers will ensure an interesting event. On primary aim is to bring together researchers and practitioners. Deadline for Extended Call for Papers 1 March.

<http://www.qlinks.net/update/2010/01/2010-05-05-at-krems-edem10-4th.htm>

FR - François Fillon veut lutter contre le racisme sur Internet

(01net)

Le Premier ministre a reçu un rapport sur la lutte contre le racisme sur Internet. Il souhaite impliquer davantage les administrations et rappelle leur rôle aux hébergeurs. La France possède un arsenal répressif complet pour combattre le racisme, mais il est insuffisamment mis en &oeuv;uvre sur Internet, souligne le rapport « [Lutter contre le racisme sur Internet](#) » remis au Premier ministre, François Fillon. Réalisé par Isabelle Falque-Pierrotin, conseiller d'Etat, présidente du Forum des droits sur l'Internet, ce document d'une soixantaine de pages note la présence évidente de messages et contenus à caractère raciste, sans toutefois conclure à une augmentation de leur nombre.

<http://www.qlinks.net/update/2010/01/fr-fran-fillon-veut-lutter-contre-le.htm>

Reporters put Twitter, Facebook to 'Big Brother' test

(MSN News)

Five journalists plan to lock themselves away in a French farmhouse with access only to Facebook and Twitter to test the quality of news from the social networking and micro-blogging sites.

<http://www.qlinks.net/update/2010/01/reporters-put-twitter-facebook-to-big.htm>

EU - Europe's spam war hits stalemate

(Techworld)

Europe's ISPs are just about holding their own against the global spam barrage, a Europe-wide report has found. Put another way, things are not getting better, but are not getting any worse either. Judging from the 2009 ENISA (European Network and Information Security Agency) [spam survey of ISPs](#) across 27 EU states, ISPs spend substantial sums trapping spam before it gets to the end user, mainly because they have to keep customers. Small providers spend at least 10,000 Euros (\$14,100) fighting unwanted messages, while large companies will exceed seven figure euro sums to do the same.

<http://www.qlinks.net/update/2010/01/eu-europes-spam-war-hits-stalemate.htm>

US - If your kids are awake, they're probably online

The average young American now spends practically every waking minute - except for the time in school - using a smart phone, computer, television or other electronic device, according to a new [study](#) from the Kaiser Family Foundation. Those ages 8 to 18 spend more than seven and a half hours a day with such devices, compared with less than six and a half hours five years ago, when the study was last conducted. And that does not count the hour and a half that youths spend texting, or the half-hour they talk on their cellphones. And because so many of them are multitasking - say, surfing the Internet while listening to music - they pack on average nearly 11 hours of media content into that seven and a half hours. The study's findings shocked its authors, who had concluded in 2005 that use could not possibly grow further, and confirmed the fears of many parents whose children are constantly tethered to media devices. It found, moreover, that heavy media use is associated with several negatives, including behavior problems and lower grades.

<http://www.qlinks.net/update/2010/01/us-if-your-kids-are-awake-theyre.htm>

CN - Timeline: China and net censorship

(BBC)

As Google considers withdrawing from China, the BBC looks at the highs and lows of internet access and freedom in the most populous country in the world.

<http://www.qlinks.net/update/2010/01/cn-timeline-china-and-net-censorship.htm>

CN - Google: A new approach to China

(Official Google Blog)

In mid-December, Google detected a highly sophisticated and targeted attack on our corporate infrastructure originating from China. However, it soon became clear that what at first appeared to be solely a security incident was something quite different. First, this attack was not just on Google. Second, we have evidence to suggest that a primary goal of the attackers was accessing the Gmail accounts of Chinese human rights activists. Only two Gmail accounts appear to have been accessed, and that activity was limited to account information, rather than the content of emails themselves. Third, we have discovered that the accounts of dozens of U.S.-, China- and Europe-based Gmail users who are advocates of human rights in China appear to have been routinely accessed by third parties. These accounts have not been accessed through any security breach at Google, but most likely via phishing scams or malware placed on the users' computers. These attacks and the surveillance they have uncovered - combined with the attempts over the past year to further limit free speech on the web - have led us to conclude that we should review the feasibility of our business operations in China. We have decided we are no longer willing to continue censoring our results on Google.cn, and so over the next few weeks we will be discussing with the Chinese government the basis on which we could operate an unfiltered search engine within the law, if at all. We recognize that this may well mean having to shut down Google.cn, and potentially our offices in China.

<http://www.qlinks.net/update/2010/01/cn-google-new-approach-to-china.htm>

New online safety video: Steering Clear of Cyber Tricks

(Google Public Policy Blog)

We're releasing the latest in a series of online safety videos as part of our Digital Literacy campaign. As we engage more students, parents and teachers about how to make good decisions online, many have noted how difficult it is to identify and avoid online scams. We know how tricky scammers can be. Our new video, [Steering Clear of Cyber Tricks](#), shares some tips on how to avoid tricky online scams.

<http://www.qlinks.net/update/2010/01/new-online-safety-video-steering-clear.htm>
