A Basic Twitter Guide

Safe Use and Security

This is a generic guide intended for anybody who is considering or is already using the social networking service Twitter.

This is version 1.0 of this document written on 22nd April 2012. If you have comments or think anything else should be included please email me:

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This guide is free to use and distribute in paper form or electronically.

Introduction

Twitter is a great Social Networking service that allows you to send chunks of bitesize information in 140 characters or less. Known as a "microblogging" service it was conceived in much the same way as Facebook; to share information with a small group of people.

Created by Jack Dorsey he defined the microblogging service as, "a short burst of inconsequential information." His first tweet sent on March 21st 2006 was, "just setting up my twttr." Twttr was the original name.

Since then Twitter has grown massively. In 2012 the service is close to 150 million users tweeting over 340 million tweets daily and over 1.6 billion search queries. *(source: Wikipedia)*

The ways in which Twitter is being used is immense; for example:

As a teaching and learning tool for working together (collaborative).
To communicate with your friends and family overseas.
To follow your favourite bands, musicians and other celebrities.
As an emergency communication system.
To make things more engaging, for example TV shows and conferences.
News networks and as a sales/marketing tool….
…. and much more, but you get the idea; it is only the imagination which limits it's use.

This brief guide has been written to give a good understanding of the security settings and how to use the service safely. It is written as a one page (see next page) guide so that you can use it as a notice in your school, youth club, host it on your website, or give it to your students or their parents.

TWITTER – Security Settings and Safe Use

You MUST be 13 years or over to use Twitter

Twitter is a great microblogging service. By remembering some simple tips you will remain safe and secure and enjoy the service for a long time.

Remember

- Twitter is a social networking service; all your tweets can be seen or searched by anybody.

- Protecting your account prevents people from following you automatically. It also stops people you haven't approved reading or searching your tweets. If you wish to protect your account you can do so in the Settings.

- Use a strong password to stop your account from being hacked and change it regularly.

A Guide to Safe Use for Young People

1. Don't post any personal information like your age, where you live, mobile phone number. If you have to, use a DM.

2. It is very easy to tweet something in the heat of the moment and regret it later. Never post anything that could upset somebody else.

3. If you find something upsetting don't reply; tell an adult you trust. If it carries on "block" the sender.

4. Remember that not everybody is who they say they are.

5. If somebody asks you to meet them in the real world, tell your parents or an adult.

IF YOU ARE BEING BULLIED OR HARASSED TELL AN ADULT STRAIGHT AWAY

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