

OFFLINE WORKSHOP: DELETING YOUR FACEBOOK ACCOUNT

SAFETY > 4.2 PROTECTING PERSONAL DATA AND PRIVACY

TARGET GROUP	AGE GROUP	PROFICIENCY LEVEL	FORMAT	COPYRIGHT	LANGUAGE
School drop outs, Students (primary school), Students (secondary school)	Children, Teenagers	Level 1	Activity sheet	Creative Commons (BY-SA)	English, French

This workshop will help participants to understand how Facebook tries to keep users who want to leave the social network from doing so by offering a lot of reasons why deleting one's account would be a bad idea.

General Objective Awareness building

Preparation time for facilitator less than 1 hour

Competence area 4 - Safety

Time needed to complete activity (for learner) 0 - 1 hour

Name of author Nothing 2hide

Support material needed for training Some wool or string-Sticky tape Small hoops/circular objects (optional)- Computer (optional)

Resource originally created in French

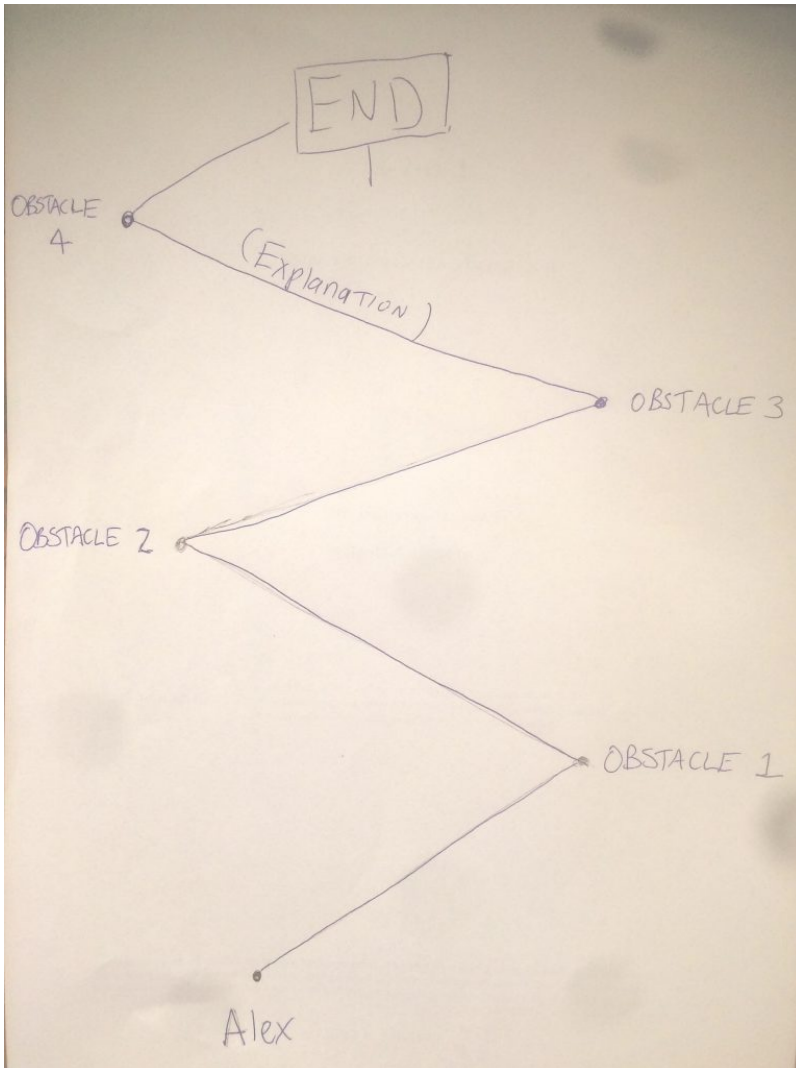
WORKSHOP DIRECTIONS

1 Introduction

The below activities will only be useful if participants are already aware of how to protect their personal data. It is the securing of our data that is really the most important subject when wanting to quit Facebook. This resource may also be used in conjunction with [‘Visualising Data for a Young Audience’](#)

2 Workshop preparation

Print and cut out the role-playing cards, so that each participant has one card. The game requires 5 players. If there are more than 5, you can have it so that up to 3 people can play the obstacles. You will have to lay out a strong or woollen thread to represent the path the player will need to take. It will look like this:



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Starting the game

Explain to participants that quitting Facebook is a journey littered with many traps. You will not be asking them to really quit Facebook but to simulate the deletion of an account in the form of a game. For this, every participant will have a role defined in a distributed card. The facilitator leads the game. You will first name the participant who will need to delete the account called Alex (or whichever name you choose). Alex will follow a predetermined path traced with a string or thread. At each step, or obstacle,

they will need to face a hurdle – another participant who will try to tempt them into changing their minds and stay on the social network. Explain that, while this is a simulation the obstacles they will encounter actually exist. The questions that these hurdles will ask them are the same that Facebook asks you when you try to delete your account. Before starting, each participant takes a card that will define their role. There will be: Alex, obstacle 1, obstacle 2, obstacle 4 and obstacle 4. Aside from their role, each participant will need to be familiar with Alex’s profile. The information on his/her card will be useful in convincing them to stay! Here is Alex’s profile card.

Alex

- 14 years old
- Tends to like their friends' posts and share posts themselves on current affairs or on things that motivate them. An example in the last year: the latest adventure of Mike Horn, the explorer!
- Posts a lot of photos from their holidays. They have been starting to take photography seriously and share their best photos.
- Follows the Facebook profiles of their favourite musical artists as well celebrities they like.
- Uses Messenger and WhatsApp to talk to friends
- Also has accounts on Instagram and Snapchat
- Has 137 friends including Sarah, her best friend (the captain of the football team who is hoping to win the championship for the second time; they are in the same class), Melvin, their cousin (they spent a lot of time together when they were younger but now they live far from each other), Sandra, with whom they play piano (they only see each other once a week as they don't live in the same town) and Sam, who they have a bit of a thing for (but haven't told them yet).
- Is signed up to Spotify via their Facebook account

In italics is written what you will need to say to follow the thread of deletion (see to the details in any way you see fit!) Alex starts at the beginning of the path. They first announce 'I'm quitting Facebook!' before heading towards the first obstacle.

4 First obstacle - one participant

OBSTACLE 1

Your role is to convince Alex to stay. Remind them that by leaving Facebook, they will lose all their friends.

Use the information that you have on Alex to convince them not to leave.

For example: 'But you won't be up to date with what your friends are doing! How are you going to keep up with photography?'

It's sad, but no more news from their friends if they leave...

This obstacle should: Ask Alex if they feel guilty. Ask them what they will do without Facebook to get news from their friends when they want. Demand they tell you how they will do it. Invite them to change their mind if they want. Alex must now advance to the second obstacle.

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Second obstacle - another participant

OBSTACLE 2

Your role is to convince Alex to stay.

When we deactivate our account. Our name and photos will be deleted as well as almost everything we have ever shared. Don't forget to emphasize this to Alex.

Their interest in photos would be a good argument here. Use your imagination to persuade. Not only the details on Alex's profile that you know already – you can make up other things too!

The facilitator should remind the group that Alex's profile is only a basis from which they have make up any details they want. Obstacle 2 should ask Alex how they feel and what they will do about their photos. Invite them now to change their minds.

6

Third obstacle

OBSTACLE 3

Ask Alex to justify their decision.
Why do they really want to leave?
Ask them to elaborate on their response which you can expect will be one of the following:

- It's temporary – I'll be back
- I spend too much time on it
- I get too many emails and other messages from Facebook
- I have another Facebook account
- My account was hacked
- I don't feel my data is safe on Facebook
- I don't find it useful
- I have my doubts about its security

Ask them to give, in one or two sentences more detail to their reasoning. Use the information you have on Alex to try to get them to change their mind.

At this moment, explain that up to now, your account is merely deactivated. This means that if Alex comes back, they will have access to their account as normal! To really delete an account, things are not

so simple – it is almost impossible in fact to discover how to do it by only searching in your account settings. You actually have to be curious enough to search the internet for the page '[Permanently delete account](#)'.

(Note to facilitator: if you have the means, you can show the page). The account will now be deleted in 14 days. Facebook leaves you time to change your mind. If within two weeks, you decide to reconnect, that stops the process and the account will not be deleted. However, even beyond these 14 days your data – photos, status updates and other information – takes around 90 days to be really deleted, according to the social network. But it's not over yet – there are still other things waiting to stop you.

7 Fourth obstacle

Explain that while quitting Facebook is good, if the goal is to refuse to leave your personal data available to the network, you need to remain coherent to the end of the process. It must especially be realised that Facebook interferes with our privacy more than we realise.

OBSTACLE 4

Alex wants to leave Facebook. Let them know that in order to become completely anonymous in regards to social media, they will also have to close many other accounts and delete apps too. Ask if they use Messenger, WhatsApp or Instagram. Remind them that it would also be good not to continue to use these application either.

Next, ask if they have any other accounts linked to their Facebook details. Take Spotify for example. If they delete their Facebook account and it was linked to Spotify, then their Spotify account is also deleted along with all their playlists they spent all that time putting together. 'Isn't that the case Alex?'

The game is over! Arrange the participants in a circle and ask them if they ever would have thought that

so much was linked to their Facebook accounts.

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Going further

To learn more if there are computers available, ask members of the group to go to their Facebook account and download their data. Follow these steps once on the account: Settings -> General -> [Download Your Information](#). This will show them how much data Facebook has on them.