

Facebook to allow app developers to request address, phone number

January 18 2011, By Nathan Olivarez-Giles

Facebook has quietly opened the door for application developers to request a user's addresses and phone numbers.

The most popular social media site in the world announced the move on its Facebook Developer blog, in a post Friday night by developer liaison Jeff Bowen.

So far, Facebook has not mentioned the change on its general announcement blog for users or any other network-wide methods. The company has dealt with [privacy concerns](#) for years, with a focus of criticism being third-party app makers' access to user data.

For Facebook users, this means address and phone numbers already listed in their profile will be given to a developer who requests such information by way of the "Request for Permission" dialog box that pops up when a user begins the process of adding an application to their profile.

Users have the ability to not share their numbers and addresses with an app, as long as they choose "don't allow" when an app dialog box pops up. But usually, if a user doesn't allow an app access to his or her information, he or she won't be able to use the app.

The dialog box doesn't look much different from the basic permissions dialog box used in the past. The difference is simply that a couple lines of text have been added: "Access my contact information" and "Current

address and mobile phone number" below it.

The address and phone number information, if requested by an [app](#), would join the usual requests for a user's "basic information" made by many apps already, including access to a user's "name, profile picture, gender, networks, user ID, list of friends, and any other information I've shared with everyone."

Facebook spokeswoman Malorie Lucich e-mailed this statement to the Los Angeles Times:

"We want to make it easy for people to take the information they've entered into [Facebook](#) with them across the Web. This new permission gives people the ability to control and share their mobile phone number and address with the websites and apps they want to use."

(c) 2011, Los Angeles Times.

Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services.

Citation: Facebook to allow app developers to request address, phone number (2011, January 18) retrieved 20 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2011-01-facebook-app.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--