

Facebook fixes photo privacy bug

December 7 2011



Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg speaks in San Francisco in September 2011. Facebook has fixed a bug that allowed the viewing of some private photographs of other members and which was reportedly used to access personal pictures of founder Mark Zuckerberg.

Facebook has fixed a bug that allowed the viewing of some private photographs of other members and which was reportedly used to access personal pictures of founder Mark Zuckerberg.

The bug involved Facebook's system of reporting inappropriate images on the social network.

By reporting a member's profile picture as inappropriate a user was asked whether they had other photographs to report, providing access to other private pictures.



The <u>glitch</u> was first revealed in a bodybuilding forum at bodybuilding.com.

"We discovered a bug in one of our reporting flows that allows people to report multiple instances of inappropriate content simultaneously," <u>Facebook</u> said in a statement.

"The bug allowed anyone to view a limited number of another user's most recently uploaded photos irrespective of the <u>privacy settings</u> for these photos," it said.

"This was the result of one of our recent code pushes and was live for a limited period of time," Facebook said.

"Upon discovering the bug, we immediately disabled the system, and will only return functionality once we can confirm the bug has been fixed," it said.

An unidentified Facebook user who exploited the bug posted 14 pictures of Zuckerberg to the image-sharing website Imgur along with the comment: "It's time to fix those <u>security flaws</u> Facebook..."

The user claimed they were taken from Zuckerberg's Facebook page although a number of the pictures have previously been released publicly.

Facebook, which has more than 800 million members, agreed in a deal with the US <u>Federal Trade Commission</u> last week to tighten its privacy policies and submit to external audits in order to settle charges that it abused users' personal data.

In its statement about the photo bug, Facebook said "the privacy of our user's data is a top priority for us, and we invest significant resources in



protecting our site and the people who use it."

(c) 2011 AFP

Citation: Facebook fixes photo privacy bug (2011, December 7) retrieved 6 May 2024 from https://phys.org/news/2011-12-facebook-photo-privacy-bug.html

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.