



We **BUILD** Computers to Your Specs

We **REPAIR** Computers & Tablets
We pick up and return your PC

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Facebook is Tracking Your Chatting!

www.komando.com

We've gotten so used to chatting with people anytime, anywhere, it's hard to imagine giving it up. Let's face it, social media is a lot of fun, although you do need to be cautious.

Facebook, of course, is the giant with roughly 2 billion active users each month. There are a lot of things to love about Facebook.

But there are downsides to Facebook and other social networking sites, too. A big one is the invasion of your privacy by Facebook.



To be fair, when you sign up, you're allowing Facebook and other websites to keep tabs on you. You typically agree to this when you register on the site, although it may not always be clear that's what you're doing.

However, you may not realize just how closely Facebook keeps tabs on everything you do. Just think about this: Have you ever gone to a website like Amazon, searched for a specific item like wireless earbuds and then the next time you're on Facebook, you see an ad for wireless earbuds?

That's no accident. Facebook knows that you've visited other sites looking for earbuds (or books on raising teenagers or used cars, or whatever it is that you look at online).

If you like seeing ads that reflect your interests, no worries. Let Facebook continue tracking everything you do.

But if it gives you the creeps that Facebook and other sites are watching your every move, keep reading. We'll tell you how to make them stop invading your privacy!

Interest-Based Advertising

You've probably heard the term, interest-based advertising. It's a technique that websites and online advertisers use to track you. They use cookies, which identify the sites you've visited to predict the type of advertising you like to see.

Facebook is tracking everything you do, even when you're not on Facebook. The good news is, it's easy to stop them from tracking you. You can tell companies like Facebook that you want to opt out of them collecting cookies to track you. It's easy, too.

You go the Digital Advertising Alliance website optout.aboutads.info.

Once there, you can opt out of specific websites from tracking you. If you use multiple browsers, like Chrome and Firefox, you will only need to opt out of Facebook once. However, for other sites, you will have to visit each browser to opt out.

Phone Scams Continue

We at Park Place Computers continue to hear from our customers saying they have received a phone call from a company that identifies themselves as "Microsoft tech support," "Microsoft support," "Windows Helpdesk," "Windows Service Center," or something similar.

The scam has been around for several years, and scammers have tricked victims into installing malicious software that can capture sensitive data such as online banking usernames and passwords.

Scammers have convinced victims to visit legitimate websites that will allow scammers to download software to control victims' computer remotely. Some victims reported having their credit card information requested.



Here are some tips to avoid becoming a victim of telephone tech support scams:

- Do not purchase any software or services.
- Ask if there is a fee or subscription associated with the service. If there is, hang up.
- Never give control of your computer to a third party unless you can confirm that it is a legitimate representative of a computer support team with whom you are already a customer.
- Treat all unsolicited phone calls with skepticism
- Keep your credit card, checking account, or Social Security numbers to yourself. Don't give them to callers you don't know, even if they ask you to "confirm" this information. That's a trick.

Marshalltown PD Free Text Alerts



The Marshalltown Police Department sends out text messages and email for residents who sign up for free notifications. With the upcoming winter months, alerts will be sent out for parking restrictions because of snow removal. Or, if there is an

Amber Alert for a missing child, would not you like to be made aware of the event?

To sign up for such alerts, go to www.ci.marshalltown.ia.us, click Departments, Police.

There is no charge for the service and you will be quickly informed of community emergencies.



Computer Humor

WHEN PINNOCHIO TALKS TO GIRLS ONLINE...



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Need a computer or computer instruction?--contact Park Place Computers