Online Privacy for DUMMIES

by the (H)ACkTIVIST group*

** This leaflet is written by participants of the working group "Online (H)Acktivism - New Media in Our Struggle" @ the UNITED Conference "Wake Up Europe: It's Time to Act" which took place from 12-17 November 2012 in Finland*

YOUR ONLINE ACCOUNTS ARE PART OF YOUR PRIVACY AND PROPERTY

If you do not want to put them at risk, please read our simple tips.
For our mutual benefit, we list some of the most commonly made mistakes and share some technical advice about how to avoid them.

Imagine > ***You lost your phone with all those contacts not being backed up, or you lost your keys and someone finds them, and breaks into your home***

This happens in the virtual world when someone breaks into your email account and takes over your data and contacts.

Imagine > ***That after going to a demonstration, some nazis follow you back home and harass you***

This happens online when you post something on social media using your own name, and you are targeted by right-wing extremists.

Imagine > ***That you plan a private party in your backyard, and your worst enemies show up before it starts to trash it, and then harass your friends for coming, and even the police show up***

This can happen if you make your events and conferences completely open and let everybody know what are you doing.

Privacy

Make a clear distinction between your **private life** (and its presence on the internet) and your **(online) activism**. To effectively do so leave **no personal** traces behind:

- It's clever to create a **separate account** and aliases for engaging and reacting on hate speech. Another effect of an alias is that nobody actually knows how many people are involved in maintaining that alias and who is doing precisely what. Choosing a **good name** can bring extra benefits.
- It is important to keep the information and people connected to your activity safe. This should be a primary concern which all team members understand and agree. Just one wrong email sent is enough to compromise it.
- It is important to consider that if someone is threatened, this can have the **impact of scaring** everybody - which can destroy all the effort you have already put in.
- If creating events on Facebook, keep other organisations protected too, **hide the list of participants** and **do not publish the location**. Be **careful with media presence** by asking journalists or photographers to register for the event beforehand - this gives you time to check if they are reliable or not.
- **Address participants** with the topic of privacy, explain it in detail or share this guide to make them understand the repercussions of not safeguarding your data.

Password

- Set a strong and **different password** for each service, otherwise, you will eventually get hacked.
- Change between cases, **use numbers and special characters**, at least 12 characters long.
- If you use one password across different accounts, the person that cracks it gains **access everywhere**.
- Take extra care with your **email password** – all password recovery links are sent there.
- Use password management software such as “1password” (Mac and Windows).

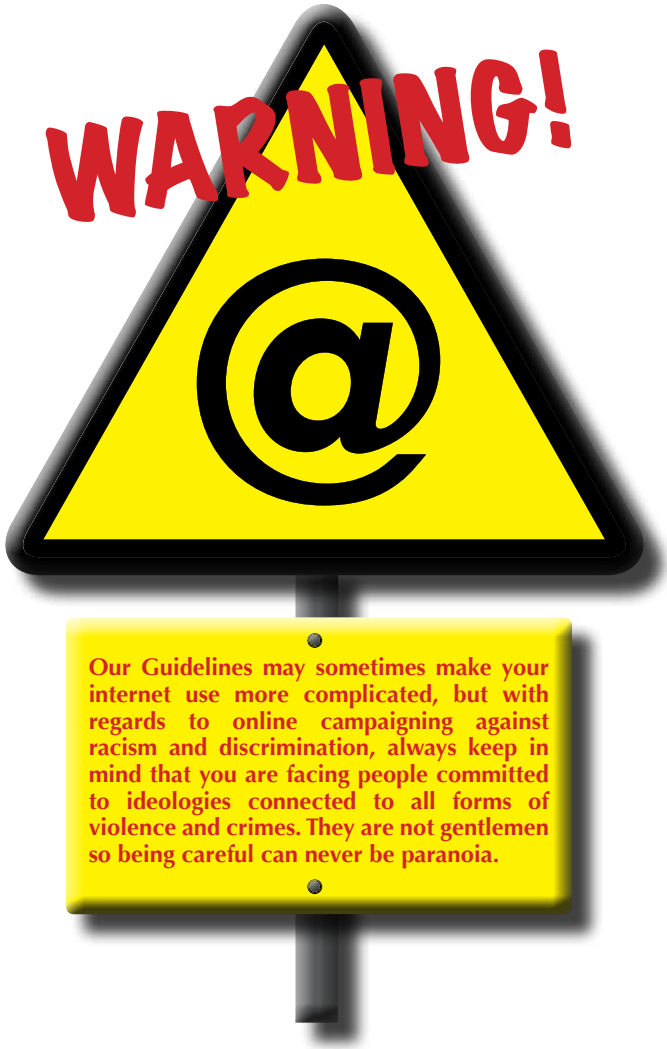
Communication

- Use accounts from activists for activists, such as riseup.net.
- Use GPG-Mail to encrypt mail communication.
- Use encrypted Jabber communication such as systemli.org .

Consider

- Use a proper and updated **Anti-Virus software**.
- If you use **public computers** use the virtual keyboard to enter your passwords, because public computers might have a key logger or other malware (malicious software) which will steal your login info.
- If you work with personal information, **encrypt your hard drive**. It might actually be illegal to store personal information unencrypted and you can risk your privacy and, in extreme cases, you can put your family, friends and colleagues in danger and you can even face legal consequences if they are leaked. To encrypt your hard disk use programs such as PGP Hole Disk, FileVault (MAC) or TrueCrypt (especially for encrypted data containers). You will always find guidelines and How to Dos on the website of the providers.
- If using free products like Facebook or Gmail, do not forget that sometimes **you are the product** - your behavioral data is being sold.

The action of extreme groups is always going to be extreme - ideological opinions are more emotional than reasonable and tend to be violent in nature



UNITED for Intercultural Action
European network against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants and refugees
Postbus 413 • NL-1000 AK Amsterdam • Netherlands
phone +31-20-6834778 • fax +31-20-6834582
info@unitedagainstracism.org • www.unitedagainstracism.org

This publication is a product of the UNITED Conference "Wake Up Europe: It's Time to Act", 12-17 November 2012 in Finland, organised with financial support of the Council of Europe (European Youth Foundation), the European Union (Youth In Action Programme), Matra Programme of Netherlands, the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture and the Provincie Noord-Brabant.