The Christian Science Monitor

About these ads

Subscribe and save 71% Subscribe

RELOCATION.COM

Go

WORLD | USA | COMMENTARY | BUSINESS | ENVIRONMENT | INNOVATION | SCIENCE | THE CULTURE | BOOKS

Innovation / Horizons

All Innovation Topics

FREE daily e-

Horizons

Facebook Places: How it works, and how to turn it off

Facebook Places lets users announce where they are and who they're hanging out with – whether real or made-up.

Facebook Places lets users broadcast their whereabouts.

Facebook

Enlarge

Like You and 380 others like this.380 people like this. · Admin Page · Error · Add Comment · Unlike

By *Matt Rocheleau* / August 19, 2010

An acquaintance of yours – someone you're only 'friends' with on Facebook – asks what you're doing this weekend. You'd rather not hang out with him, so you lie (to be avoid any hurt feelings). You'll be out of town, you explain. "Maybe next time."

Recent posts

08.23.10
Lady Gaga tops Twitter charts

08.23.10
Google Nexus One dead? Well, not quite.

08.21.10
HP tablet confirmed for 2011

08.21.10
What is the Droid Pro?

08.19.10
Facebook Places: How it works, and how to turn it off

All clear, right?

Before yesterday, only an awkward run-in or a blabbing friend could give you away. Now, there's a new potential snitch: Facebook Places.

The massively popular social network rolled out a new feature this week that shares your location with Facebook friends and alerts you if a buddy is nearby.

Prepare for all kinds of useful applications and

More Innovation

Lady Gaga tops Twitter charts

About these ads

Subscribe to the weekly MONITOR and SAVE 71%

Most viewed

1. Egg recall list expands. Check your eggs again.
2. Egg recall brands: Add these five to egg recall list
3. Egg recall: Are your eggs on the list?
4. Tropical Storm Danielle and Tropical Storm Frank prompt warnings
5. Anne Frank tree knocked down by storm
6. Chile miners have country rallying around hope of rescue
7. Wife of 'ground zero mosque' imam epitomizes Islam's modernizing voice
8. Tiger Woods divorce finalized with Elin Nordegren
9. Petraeus says US has momentum over Afghan Taliban
10. Why doesn't Obama wear his religion on his sleeve?

Photos of the day 08.23.10 »

Related Stories

Why Facebook enjoys explosive growth - despite its many stumbles

Blog: Is Facebook Fan Check a virus? Careful whom you ask

Blog: Facebook, the movie: the Facebook group

unforeseen consequences. A friend could tag your whereabouts – true or untrue – ruining your white-lie alibi. Facebook could warn you that the acquaintance you're avoiding just arrived at the same party, better think fast. Or, in theory, you could tell Facebook Places that you've hit the beach this weekend, corroborating your story.

Whether Facebook Places will take off has set to be seen, but one thing has been clear through the first 48 hours of its launch: both using and turning off the feature has been confusing users, reporters, and Facebook alike.

The feature does not fully opt you in to the program automatically, but it also takes a bit of work to fully opt out. Contrary to what Facebook initially reported, you can fully opt of sharing any information – including being tagged by friends – through Facebook Places.

How Facebook Places works

When you'd like to let your online buddies know your current location, you can "check in" and select from a list of "places" nearby. Facebook also lets you add own "places" if none of its suggestions adequately describe where you are. Your pals' News Feeds are then filled in on your location information and you can post a status update to describe more about what you're up to.

You can also see if any Facebook users have checked in nearby – even if they are not a friend of yours online.

Similar to tagging friends in photos, anyone who's checked in may "tag" friends that they are with. If you enable the let-your-friends-check-you-in feature, when you're tagged, you will appear as checked in as if you had done so yourself. If you opt out of Facebook Places, your name will still appear when you're tagged, but you will not be checked in. Checking in is like a more involved way of tagging. You may always remove identifying tags completely.

"If your friend tags you at a place, and you have clicked 'Allow' (or used Places yourself) then it's as if you yourself had checked in. You will show up in the Here Now and in the Friends Who Have Visited," says Facebook spokeswoman Meredith Chin in an e-mail. "If your friend tags you at a place, and you have not used Places or click 'Not Now,' then it's as if it's just a status tag. So you will be mentioned in the update, but you will not show up at the place."

Friend-initiated tags and check-ins show you as being at the same place as your friend – the feature does not allow friends to check you in somewhere else beside where they are checked in and if a friend checks in or tags you, it does not show your location based on where your device is.

Page: 1 | 2

Like You and 380 others like this.380 people like this. · Admin Page · Error · Add Comment · Unlike

Subscribe to the new weekly Monitor and save 71%!

In Pictures

Space photos of the day 08/23

Inside CSMonitor.com:

Libya's Qaddafi taps 'fossil water' to irrigate desert farms

While many countries in the Middle East and North Africa bicker over water rights, Libya has tapped into an aquifer of 'fossil water' to change its topography – turning sand into soil. The 26-year, $20 billion project is nearly finished.

Wyclef Jean keeps supporters hopeful in his run for Haiti president

Afghanistan's new war crimes museum punts on still-powerful warlords

Egg recall: Supplier reported to have history of health, safety violations

The New Economy
Egg recall brands: Add these five to egg recall list

Watch this video on www.youtube.com

About these ads

FREE daily e-mail newsletter

CSMonitor.com top stories, cartoons and photos

Your e-mail address Sign up

See sample | Privacy Policy

What happens when ordinary people decide to pay it forward? Extraordinary change. See how *individuals are making a difference*...

Chai Ling became the second-most-wanted person in China after the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989. She escaped to Hong Kong, then made her way to the US in 1990. Today she's a businesswoman as well as a wife and mother of three. Her English-language memoir will be published soon.

Protecting women and girls in China, where one child per family is the rule – and a boy the preference.

Chai Ling was a leader of the 1989 student uprising at Tiananmen Square. Now she wants to help women and girls in her native China.

Become part of the Monitor community

16,600 Fans | 6,060 on Twitter | 700K RSS subscribers

Ads by Google (About these

Sponsored Links

Booking Agency
Grabow Entertainment Agency

Business Resources
Business Cards
Checks

Computers
PowerEdge Memory

Charitable Donations
Car Donations
Boat Donations

Graphic Design
Logo Design - LogoBee

Real Estate
International Shipping
Mortgage Calculator
Moving
Moving Companies
Real Estate

Speakers Bureau
Christian Speakers
Motivational Speakers
Sports Speakers Bureaus

Web Services
Dedicated Servers
Web Hosting

About these ads

© The Christian Science Monitor. All Rights Reserved. Terms under which this service is provided to you. Privacy Policy.