How to avoid being doxxed - checklist

This document is a companion to my blog post, [How to avoid being doxxed](). It lets you work through the tips in the blog post, checking them off as you go. Feel free to print it, share it, use it.

The blog post contains more information than this checklist. I recommend reading it first.

Remember that nothing is foolproof, and if an organisation or individual with resources really wants to find you, they probably will. And keep in mind the two basic principles of information on the internet: nothing is private and everything is eternal.

[What is my safety level?]()

[How much information is out there?]()

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What is my safety level?

Write a few sentences about your risk tolerance, the level of threat you face, and how much you're prepared to alter your life for the sake of internet privacy.

How much information is out there?

- ☐ Using a privacy-focused browser (such as [Brave](#) or [Firefox](#)) and search engine (such as [DuckDuckGo](#)), search for the following:
    - ☐ Name
    - ☐ Previous names
    - ☐ Address
    - ☐ All phone numbers
    - ☐ All email addresses
    - ☐ Usernames, especially ones you use widely

- ☐ Repeat the previous searches using Google in incognito mode.

- ☐ Check if your online accounts are secure, using a hack checker like [Avast Hack Check](#) or [have i been pwned](#) (the latter also allows you to check phone numbers).

- ☐ Think of places where your info might be shared. Make a list. Consider:
    - ☐ CV upload sites / job sites
    - ☐ Work websites
    - ☐ Personal blogs and hobby websites
    - ☐ Social media
        - ☐ Current
        - ☐ Old / unused

Easy steps

These are things you can do without altering your online behaviour or restricting your online presence. While they are 'easy' in that they don't impact your use of the internet, some of them may be time consuming or a bit of a faff.

- ☐ Anonymise social media and online community identities
    - ☐ Choose usernames that don't identify you
    - ☐ Read up on social media privacy settings and lock them down as much as possible
    - ☐ Choose different username for each community or social media account

- ☐ Improve security
    - ☐ Change any passwords revealed by the hack checker.
    - ☐ Start using a password manager such as 1Password. This allows you to use a complex and unique password for each account, without needing to memorise them. If a password is leaked, the damage is limited to that one account.

- ☐ Delete what you can
    - ☐ Delete any information that came up in your web searches, assuming you don't need it to be public.
    - ☐ Delete your old social media and forum accounts, old blogs, and so on (if you no longer use them).
    - ☐ Delete job site profiles, and delete your CV from anywhere you've uploaded it (assuming you're not job hunting of course!)

- ☐ Secure your websites
    - ☐ If you run any websites, review documents you've uploaded
    - ☐ If you own any domain names, make the WHOIS record private

- ☐ Remove public records
    - ☐ Make sure you are not on the public electoral roll (UK) or your country's equivalent

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☐ Exercise your right to be forgotten (more information in the [blog post](#))

More difficult steps

These steps may be more difficult, as they require behavioural changes, or involve other people. Not all of them will be possible for everyone.

Most of these are ongoing efforts, rather than one off tasks. Use the checklist to prompt you to consider them, and put processes in place for doing them repeatedly. For example, under "Delete account regularly", your "steps taken" could be "I've set up a reminder in my calendar that prompts me to delete my Reddit account every 3 months".

☐ Get your family and friends onboard with privacy. If possible, get them to untag you from photos (especially ones that might reveal your location).

Steps taken:

☐ Make sure your employer is taking steps to protect your privacy, such as limiting the detail in public profiles, and ensuring your work email isn't publicly associated with private information.

Steps taken:

☐ Delete accounts regularly.

Steps taken:

☐ Reduce access: this isn't really about avoiding doxxing so much as reducing channels where people can harass you.

Steps taken:

☐ Be mindful of what you share. Assume that anything you write online can be seen by anyone.

Steps taken:

☐ Consider using a mailbox service.

Steps taken: