



Call Us 24/7 **1-855-434-8077**

[Home](#)

[Contact](#)

[Login](#)

[FREE Sign Up](#)

[PRO Sign Up](#)



## Could You Pass a Social Media Background Check?

August 9, 2011

Share and Enjoy:

Like

Sign Up to see what your friends like.

Vanessa here from AllClear ID. The next time you apply for a job, don't be surprised if you have to agree to a social-media background check. Many U.S. companies and recruiters are now looking at your Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, blogs, YouTube videos and other accounts to see who you really are.

And now the Federal Trade Commission has [decided](#) that companies that research how you spend your personal time, and what your hobbies are, don't violate your privacy. The FTC recently investigated [Social Intelligence](#), a year-old startup which scours the Internet for the information, pictures and comments you share with the world, and sells that data to your potential employers. The FTC found the company compliant with the Fair Credit Reporting Act. In other words, the Internet is fair game.

CEO Max Drucker recently gave an [interview](#) to the *New York Times* about the interesting things about job applicants he has found online. A Social Intelligence report to a hiring company would include racist remarks, sexually explicit photos or videos, or flagrant displays of weapons or illegal activity.

HR experts say you can breathe easy when it comes to party pictures on your Facebook page — most employers and recruiters look past them (unless, you're underage, obviously). What they're looking for your approach to what you put online. Is it immature, inappropriate? Will the comments and opinions you're giving to the public jive with what you'll do with clients and peers?

So that means when you put your private life out there publicly, it's there to be evaluated. All it takes is a Google search. And while employers can't legally make hiring decisions based on race, religion, marital status or disability, they can make decisions based on whether or not they like your attitude or your ethics.

Some tips for creating an employer-friendly profile on the Internet:

- Find out what's out there online about you. Anything that may be taken out of context should be taken down.
- Go beyond Facebook and Flickr — remember that bits and pieces of you are at a number of other sites, like LinkedIn, Craigslist and Foursquare, not to mention blogs, forums and wikis that you might visit.
- Do frequent checks on your privacy settings on social-media accounts.
- Create a positive online presence by putting up your résumé on a site with your domain name, or getting it on forums of charitable organizations that you support.
- If you really want to get serious about your online profile, consider hiring an "online reputation management company" like [Reputation.com](#) and [Unsubscribe.com](#) to help you present a better you to the world.

**Tags:** [computer safety](#), [identity theft protection](#), [social media privacy](#)

Comments are closed.

All we need to sign you up:





Provide ID Repair for my children  
By clicking below I agree to the terms

[Sign Me Up For Free](#)

No Trial, No Contract, No Credit Card

### Recent Posts

[Scam Alert: Phishing Text Messages](#)

["New Credit Identity" Scams Involves Victims With Child Identity Theft](#)

[AllClear ID and National Cybersecurity Awareness Month](#)

[How to Protect Your Medical Records from Medical Identity Theft: Part 2](#)

[Jamie's Top 3 Child Identity Theft Protection Tips](#)

### Previous Posts

[October 2011](#)

[September 2011](#)

[August 2011](#)

[July 2011](#)

[June 2011](#)

[May 2011](#)

[April 2011](#)

[March 2011](#)

[February 2011](#)

[January 2011](#)

[December 2010](#)

[November 2010](#)

[October 2010](#)

[September 2010](#)

[August 2010](#)

[July 2010](#)

[June 2010](#)

[May 2010](#)

---

Copyright AllClear ID 2011 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED [Privacy Policy](#) [Terms](#)



AllClear ID Reports