

# OFFICE OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

*Facebook and Privacy*

March 23, 2018

## *A Step-by-Step Guide*

The Cambridge Analytica scandal in the political realm has real world impact on consumer privacy. [CBS News](#) and New York Times' "[Tech Tip](#)" highlighted how deleting your Facebook page may not be enough (or frankly reasonable or feasible for many). If quitting Facebook is not in the cards, according to The New York Times' "[Tech Fix](#)" column, there are ways to limit the access of apps to your personal profile. Many do not know that by taking silly quizzes, or signing



on to websites using your Facebook profile, also links those platforms to you via "apps." But you can see how many apps are connected to you and either delete them or change their settings. Moreover, as ABC News's [Good Morning America](#) showed, you can see what Facebook knows and tracks on you.

Below are two step-by-step guides suggested by The New York Times, the [Electronic Frontier Foundation](#) and Good Morning America:



## *Ensuring Integrity in our Marketplace*



If you have been a victim of any scams, or if you have any questions about a merchant's actions, please contact the Office of Consumer Protection.

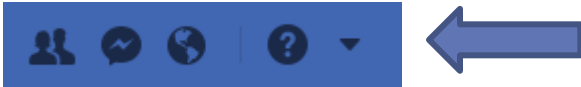
100 Maryland Avenue  
Suite 330  
Rockville, MD 20850  
Main: 240.777.3636  
Tip Line: 240.777.3681  
Fax: 240.777.3768

You can also file a complaint online by clicking [HERE](#)

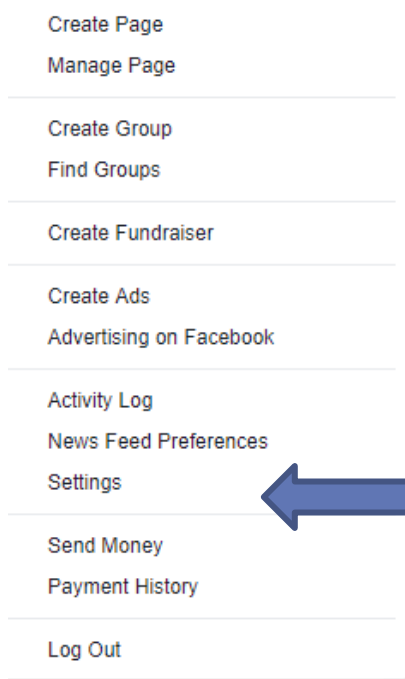


## To find what applications are connected to your profile:

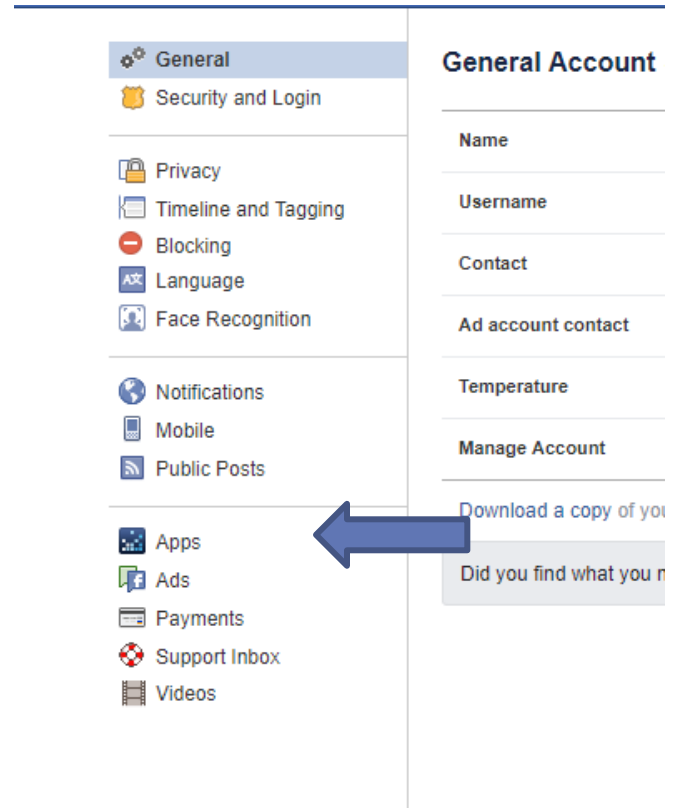
1. Find settings by clicking on the small arrow at the end of your Facebook toolbar:



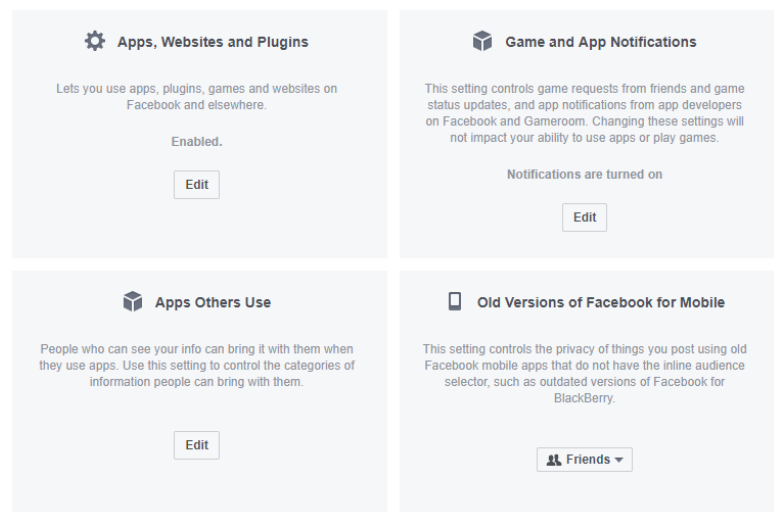
2. Then click on “Settings” in the drop down menu:



3. Then click on “Apps” on the right-hand toolbar:

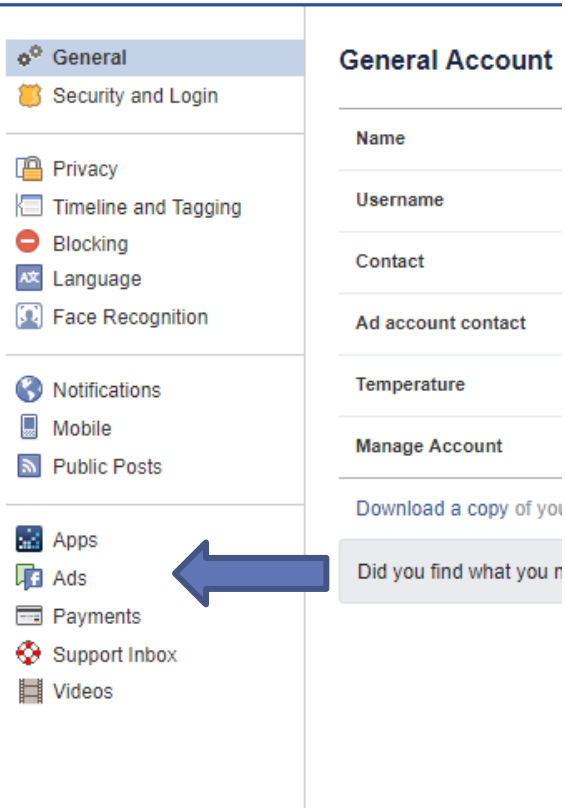


4. Here you will find four fields of Apps which you can disable or otherwise edit to limit access:

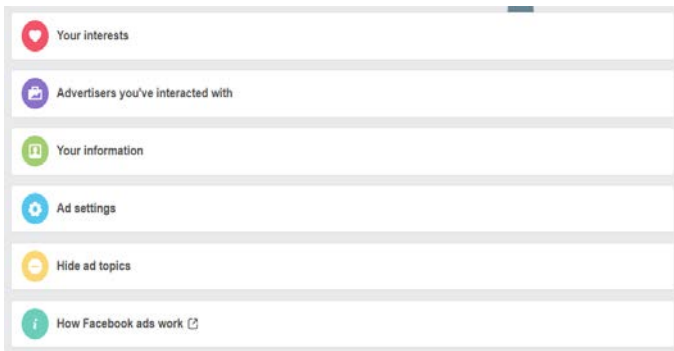


## To see what Facebook knows about you:

1. Go back to Settings and click on “Ads”



2. Here you will find the information collected on you for advertisers and other third-party uses:



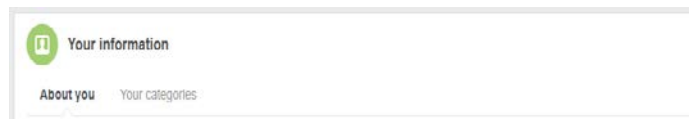
3. Click on each row and expand the topics. You can then see what is being saved. For example,



4. Click on each tab to see what sub-topics of Your Interests, Advertisers you've interacted with, Your Information, Ad Settings are stored for you.
5. Hover your mouse over each box and click the X to close out any connection you find objectionable.
6. Don't forget to click on “See More” to expand the list of connections and preferences and the bottom or “More” to the right of the sub-tabs to expand the sub-categories:



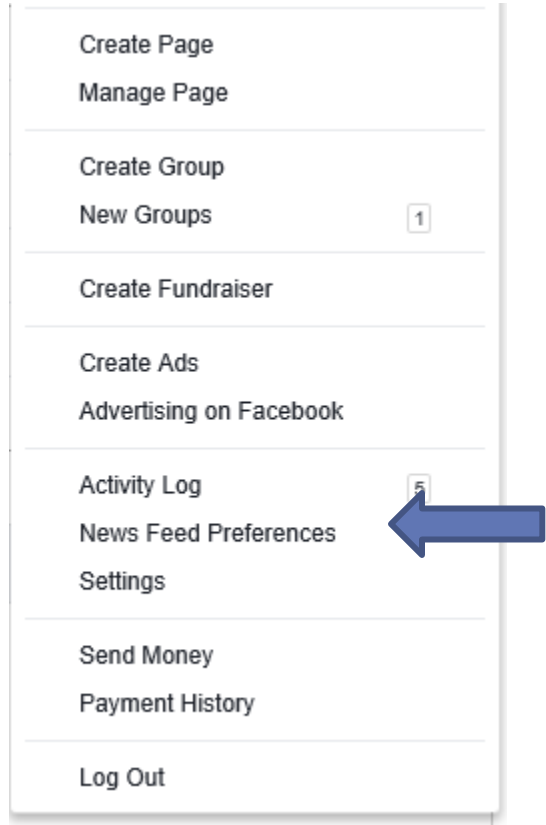
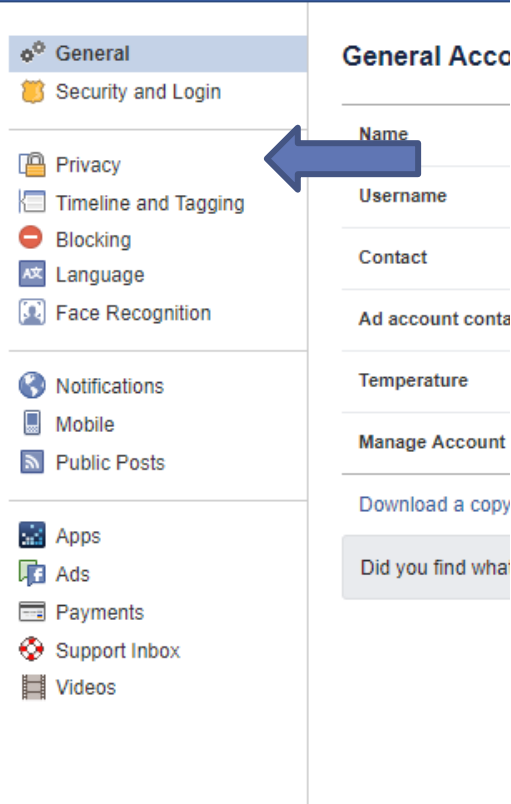
7. Pay particular attention to “Your Information” and the connections therein:



8. You can also control the advertisements you see under “Ad settings” or “Hide ad topics.”

**To see general privacy settings:**

1. Click on Settings and then click on Privacy



2. Review your settings and click "Edit" to change them as desired.

Privacy Settings and Tools

Your Activity	Who can see your future posts?	Friends	<a href="#">Edit</a>
	Review all your posts and things you're tagged in		<a href="#">Use Activity Log</a>
	Limit the audience for posts you've shared with friends or Public?		<a href="#">Limit Past Posts</a>
How People Find and Contact You	Who can send you friend requests?	Friends of friends	<a href="#">Edit</a>
	Who can see your friends list?	Only me	<a href="#">Edit</a>
	Remember, your friends control who can see their friendships on their own Timelines. If people can see your friendship on another timeline, they'll be able to see it in News Feed, search and other places on Facebook. If you set this to Only me, only you will be able to see your full friends list on your timeline. Other people will see only mutual friends.		
	Who can look you up using the email address you provided?	Friends	<a href="#">Edit</a>
	Who can look you up using the phone number you provided?	Friends	<a href="#">Edit</a>
	Do you want search engines outside of Facebook to link to your profile?	No	<a href="#">Edit</a>

5. Once you have finished, run through these steps on your children's profiles.

Your privacy deserves vigilance. To learn more about privacy, join the Office of Consumer Protection during Privacy Awareness Week which is scheduled for May 13-19, 2018.



3. Spend some time reviewing the remaining tabs on your "Settings"
4. Also, additional controls can be found under "News Feed Preferences"