

Secure Social Media: Twitter Guide

Introduction

This document is a brief guide on how to set up and use Twitter with maximum security.

Create an Account

1. Go to <https://twitter.com>
2. Choose a name, email address, password, and username for your account
 - You do **not** need to use your real name to sign up for a Twitter account
 - Choose a unique password that is a long combination of numbers and letters that will be easy for you to remember but hard for anyone else to guess
 - Remember that you will be identified by your username, but both your name and username will appear on your profile

Account Settings

1. Click on the person icon in the upper right corner and go to **Settings**
2. Username
 - This is the name that everyone will see for your account
 - Do **not** use a name that could reveal your identity if you want to be anonymous
3. Email
 - If you want to remain anonymous, do not let others find you by email and do not use an email address linked to your real identity
4. Location:
 - Do **not** select "Add location to my Tweets" unless you want all of your tweets to show your actual geographic location
 - You can also **Delete all location information** from past tweets
5. Private Tweets
 - Select **Protect my Tweets** if you do not want your tweets to be public. You will have to approve people before they can see what you are saying
 - Consider the costs and benefits to protecting your tweets: If you are running an advocacy campaign you will reach more people if you tweet publicly, but then anyone can see your activities on Twitter.
 - **You should use Twitter with the understanding that anything you tweet could become public, even if you protect your tweets**
6. Personalization
 - Twitter recently added a new "personalization" feature, which allows it to track you across various websites that have Twitter buttons or widgets in order to make personalized suggestions for who you should follow. If you would like to turn this off, uncheck the box next to "Tailor Twitter based on my recent website visits."
7. Secure Connection
 - Select **Always use HTTPS**
 - Your connection to Twitter will be secure and encrypted if you are using HTTPS
8. Password reset
 - By default, when requesting a password reset for your Twitter account, all you need to provide is the Twitter username. By checking the box "require personal information to reset my password," you will also need to provide an email address or

phone number linked to your account to reset the password, adding additional security.

9. Country

- Twitter is now blocking individual tweets and accounts on a country level as requested by governments. Consider setting your country to an uncensored place.
- Setting your location to “Worldwide” will not work if you are trying to prevent your activities from being blocked

Mobile Settings

1. Enter your mobile phone number if you do not have a smartphone, or if you do have a smartphone and still want to receive SMS updates from Twitter
 - Select your country
 - Enter your phone number
 - If you are outside the US, you may also have to select your carrier
 - You will be prompted to send a text message to Twitter at a number provided, to verify your phone
 - Once you send the text message and your mobile device is verified, you can **Enable** password reset via text message. This will allow Twitter to send a password reset to your phone
2. Click “Download Twitter mobile app” if you have a smartphone
3. If you download Twitter to your smartphone, be sure that tweet location is **disabled**. When writing a new tweet from your smartphone, can turn tweet location on and off by clicking on the compass / pin button below your text window.

Profile

1. Chose a picture of anything. Remember to chose something that will not give away your identity if you are trying to remain anonymous
2. Only provide your real **name, location, website, and bio** if you are comfortable doing so. Remember that **anyone** can see this information, even if you protect your tweets.
3. Post your Tweets to Facebook:
 - If you are concerned about protecting your identity and security, it is not recommended that you link your Twitter and Facebook accounts.
 - If you link your accounts, everything you tweet will be posted on your Facebook page

Applications

1. This tab shows you which applications you allow to access your account. Choose carefully which applications you allow to access your Twitter account: you will be granting these applications access to your activities on Twitter, and these activities will be posted elsewhere.
2. Applications you install to Tweet from your computer or mobile device will request your username and password. Be extra cautious when giving out your password. If you change your mind and want to revoke access to an application that knows your password, revoke access and change your password.
3. **Revoke Access:** Click the “revoke access” button to remove an application’s access to your account.
4. Never allow access to websites that claim to increase your following or post ads to your timeline

Appendix: Screenshots

Tweet location Add a location to my Tweets

When you tweet with a location, Twitter stores that location. You can switch location on/off before each Tweet. [Learn more](#)

Delete all location information

This will delete all location information from past Tweets. This may take up to 30 minutes.



Tweet privacy Protect my Tweets

If selected, only those you approve will receive your Tweets. Your future Tweets will not be available publicly. Tweets posted previously may still be publicly visible in some places. [Learn more](#).

Personalization Tailor Twitter based on my recent website visits

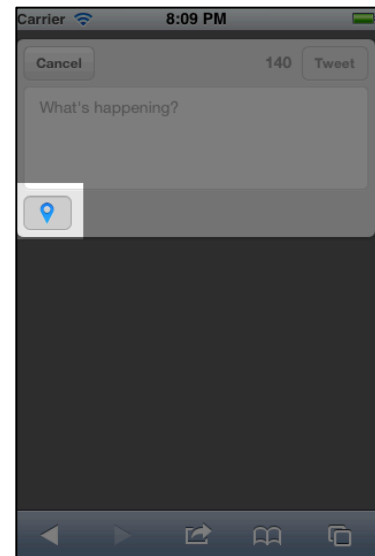
[Preview](#) suggestions tailored for you (not currently available to all users). [Learn more](#) about how this works and your additional privacy controls.

HTTPS only Always use HTTPS

Use a secure connection where possible.

Password reset Require personal information to reset my password

By default, you can initiate a password reset by entering only your @username. If you check this box, you will be prompted to enter your email address or phone number if you forget your password.



Mobile

Set up your mobile connection to Twitter to receive notifications.

[Download Twitter mobile app](#)

Available for iPhone, iPad, Android, BlackBerry, and Windows Phone 7.

Text messaging

Twitter is more fun when used through your mobile phone. Set yours up! It's easy! Twitter does not charge for this service. Standard message and data rates may apply.



Country/region:

Phone number: +1

Activate phone

Applications

These are the apps that can access your Twitter account. [Learn more](#).

	Twitter for Mac by Twitter, Inc Twitter for Mac read, write, and direct messages access Approved: Thursday, March 1, 2012 7:00:43 PM	Revoke access
	iOS by Apple® iOS 5 Twitter integration read and write access Approved: Friday, November 18, 2011 10:58:38 PM	Revoke access