

Secure Social Media: YouTube Guide

INTRODUCTION

This document is a brief guide to setting up and using YouTube securely. It also includes information on how to setup and use a Google Account securely, since you must create a Google Account to create a YouTube account.

Skip to “YouTube Account Settings” if you have a YouTube account that is not linked to a Google Account. (To check, sign into your account and go to **Settings, Email Options**. If your Current Email Address is a Gmail account, or you see the message “you are signed in via Google,” then your YouTube account is linked to a Google Account.)

SETUP

1. Decide what email account you want linked to your YouTube account. Do not use an email account that you already use for private or sensitive activities.
2. If you have a Gmail account (not your primary email account), sign in. If you do not have one, create one.

GOOGLE ACCOUNT SETTINGS

1. Once you sign in to the Gmail account you want to use for YouTube, go to **Account Settings** and you should see your **Account Overview** (google.com/settings)
2. Next to **2-step verification** click **Edit**.
 - Select your country from the drop-down menu and enter your phone number. Choose if you want the code sent to you by SMS or voice call.
 - Click **Send Code** and wait until you receive the code. Enter the code and select **verify**. You will see a confirmation message when your phone has been verified.
 - If you are using your private computer, you can select “Trust this computer.” On a trusted computer, you will only have to enter a verification code once every 30 days. Do not select “Trust this computer” if you are on a public or shared computer.
 - Select **Turn on 2-step Verification** to finish.
 - Remember: If you lose your phone or change your SIM card without updating your phone number under Account Settings, you will not be able to access your account from a computer that is not trusted.
3. Under **Account Settings** select **Account Recovery** to add an alternate email address or mobile number to your account. This will provide you with a way to access your account even if it has been hacked, or if you forget your password.
4. Select **Profile and Privacy** to review your privacy settings. Check carefully to review the information you are sharing with Google and with the public.
5. From the profile and privacy page, scroll down and select **Dashboard** to view your account settings for every Google service you use under this account. Check carefully to review the information you are sharing with Google and with the public.

YOUTUBE CHANNEL SETTINGS

1. Once your Google Account is set up, sign in and select the YouTube tab. You will be redirected to the YouTube account linked to your Google Account.
2. Select your account name at the top right. Select **My Channel** and when you see your channel, select **Edit Channel**.
3. Under the **Feed** tab, select **Settings** to control how others can comment on your channel. Select “Allow channel comments but don’t display until approved” and click **Apply**.

4. Make your channel private by going to the **Info and Settings** tab, and de-selecting the box for “Make my channel visible on YouTube.”
5. Select **Done Editing**

YOUTUBE ACCOUNT SETTINGS

Always hit **save changes** when adjusting your account settings!

1. Profile Setup:
 - You can give as little or as much information here as you want.
2. Sharing
 - Under “On YouTube,” de-select the boxes for activities that you do not want to be shared on your YouTube profile.
3. Privacy
 - Select “Allow only my contacts to send messages or share videos”
 - Do not select any advertising options or statistics and data
4. Mobile Setup
 - To upload videos from your phone to your YouTube account, send them to the email address shown here.
 - This email address is unique for every YouTube account. Do not share it with anyone you do not trust.
5. Account Status
 - Here you can see if your account is in good standing under YouTube rules
 - Select “Sign Out Everywhere” if you are concerned that someone is accessing your account from a different location.
6. Inbox
 - Delete any messages, comments, sent mail, and contacts that you do not want saved

UPLOADING VIDEO

1. When you upload a video, under **Basic Info** you can make the video **Unlisted** or **Private**
 - **Unlisted:** Can only be seen by people who have the link to the video. These videos will not appear on any public page on YouTube, including your profile, search results, playlists. You do not need a YouTube account to view an unlisted video.
 - **Private:** Can be seen by you and up to 50 people you invite to view the video. It will not appear on your profile, in search results, or playlists.
 - You cannot create unlisted videos unless your YouTube account is in good standing
 - **Face blurring:** YouTube introduced a new feature that allows you to obscure the identity of individuals within videos you’ve uploaded. For more info, visit: <https://support.google.com/youtube/bin/static.py?hl=en&page=guide.cs&guide=1388381&answer=2640535>

VIDEO MANAGER SETTINGS

1. History:
 - Select “clear all viewing history”
 - Select “Pause viewing history” to prevent YouTube from tracking your activities
2. Search History
 - Select “clear all search history”
 - Select “Pause search history” to prevent YouTube from tracking your activities
3. Blocking users
 - You can block a user from making comments on your videos or sending you messages by going to their channel page and selecting **block user**.

Appendix: Screen Shots

Google accounts

Set up 2-step verification for [redacted]@gmail.com

Set up your phone Verify computer Activate

Add a mobile or landline phone number where Google can send codes. ?

When you log in from a computer you don't normally use, we'll ask you for your password and a code that you receive on your phone. This will help prevent strangers from accessing your account with just a stolen password. [Learn more](#)

Vietnam (Việt Nam) You provided this number for account security on 2/12/11. Google will only use this number for account security.
ex: 0210 1234 567

Send codes by:

SMS text message

Voice call

Let's test the phone.

1. Click "Send code" and check your phone for the verification code.
2. Enter the code you receive on your phone.
Code:

Google accounts

Enter the verification code sent to your phone number ending in 00.

Enter code:

Remember this computer for 30 days.

Didn't receive the text message?
[Get a verification code with a voice call](#)
[Other ways to get a verification code >](#)
[Cancel](#)

Set up 2-step verification for [redacted]@gmail.com

Set up your phone Verify computer **Activate**

Turn on 2-step verification

You will be asked for a code whenever you sign in from an unrecognized computer or device.