Most people know the difference between posting something on Facebook publicly or "Just Friends". What most people don't know is that you can share certain posts with only certain Facebook friends. Why should you use it? There are a few reasons, not the least of which is to protect yourself when you go on vacation.

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0-8 Jamey Tucker/whatthetech.tv

ON CAMERA TEASE:

   Would you tell a perfect stranger that you're not going to be home for a week? If you're not careful, you'll do exactly that the next time you've got your toes in the sand. I'm Jamey Tucker, coming up with how to share vacation photos to Facebook, safely.

ANCHOR INTRO

   IF YOU'RE PLANNING A SUMMER VACATION, YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD IT ISN'T A GOOD IDEA TO LET EVERYONE ON FACEBOOK KNOW THAT YOU'RE NOT AT HOME.

   WHILE SOME FACEBOOK USERS WAIT UNTIL THEY GET HOME TO POST VACATION PHOTOS, MANY PEOPLE MAKE THE MISTAKE OF LETTING THE WORLD KNOW THAT THEIR HOUSE IS SITTING EMPTY. OUR CONSUMER TECHNOLOGY REPORTER JAMEY TUCKER SHOWS US HOW TO SAFELY POST VACATION PHOTOS ONLY TO FRIENDS YOU TRUST.

PACKAGE SCRIPT

   This may make you think twice about posting vacation photos before you get home. I want to show you how easy it is for a burglar to find an empty house.
Using Facebook, the bad guy finds a local public Facebook group. They're able to see other members in the group. Pick one to see their profile and to see all photos they've posted publicly. This time of year, it might not take very long to find someone who's posted vacation photos, along with the date it was taken.
   Most people don't think about this when posting photos of the kids at the beach. If you can't wait 'til you get home, you can do this.
   Click on your friends and then "Custom Lists". Here you can make a list of close friends you trust. Add people to the list.

Now when you just have to post a vacation photo, choose to share it only with people on that list.   Even if they like or comment on the picture, only people on your custom list can see it. Custom lists are also good for other posts. We all have friends who are easily offended, friends you'd rather not see your party pics.

   I created a custom list of friends who are jerks. We all have those too. I added their names to the "jerks" list. And when I want to post something without seeing their loud opposing opinions and arguments, I share it with all of my friends, except people on the "jerks" list.

    And in case you think I'm giving bad guys advice trust me they already know they can get a lot of information on Facebook and Instagram because we share too much.   That's What the Tech? I'm Jamey Tucker

ANCHOR TAG

   IT'S IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT ANYONE CAN SEE YOUR PUBLIC FACEBOOK POSTS AND PHOTOS, EVEN IF THEY'RE NOT ON FACEBOOK.

 WEB STORY

   Most of us know it isn't a good idea to post vacation photos to Facebook when we're out of town. It's so tempting though when you catch the perfect photo of a sunset or your toes in the sand with a cold drink in your hand.
   You can wait until you get home. Some folks can't wait that long.

If you post those vacation photos publicly on Facebook, anyone you're not friends with can see them. Even people who aren't on Facebook at all can view your vacation pictures.

Here's how easy it is for a bad guy to find an empty house to burgle:

- Visit a public Facebook group in their area
- Click on a list of members
- Pick one and choose to see their public Facebook profile
- Find a member who's posting vacation photos

Sure it might take them a while to find what they're looking for, but bad guys generally do bad things for a living. They have time to do some homework.

Sadly, many people don't think of this when they're sitting by a pool somewhere. They'll post a photo to their profile and newsfeed without changing the privacy settings on the post. You can take a look at where your photos are being displayed by looking at the top of the post. If you see a globe, your posts are public.

You can, and maybe you already have chosen to share photos and posts only with friends.

If you've accepted a ton of friend requests from people you don't know or don't know well enough to tell them you're not home, you should set up a separate friends list and share photos only with those friends.

You'll want to do this on a computer, not a phone.

Click on Friends, and then "Custom Lists"
   Here you can make a list of people you trust. Click on Add/Remove, and add people to the list. When you post a vacation photo, choose to share it only with people on that list. Even if they like or comment on the post, only people on your custom list can see it.

   I've found custom Friends Lists are also good for certain types of posts. We all have friends who are easily offended. You may have friends you don't want to see your party pics. Friends you may disagree with politically. I created a list of friends who are jerks. Don't laugh, we all have them. Add their names to that list.
   Whenever I want to post something without stirring those people up, I can choose to post to everyone except people on that list.

 And in case you think I'm giving bad guys advice on how to use social media to case someone's joint, they already know people share too much personal information on Facebook.

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