



**Get Privacy Report**  
PUBLIC-SOURCE PRIVACY AWARENESS

FREE PRIVACY RESOURCE

# Inspector Scout's Public Digital Footprint Checklist



A practical self-check to help you understand what is publicly visible about you online.

Start your digital-footprint review in approximately 15 minutes.

**Built in Australia**

Available worldwide for individuals reviewing their own public footprint.

**Version 1.0 - June 2026**

[www.getprivacyreport.com](http://www.getprivacyreport.com)



**A PRACTICAL SELF-CHECK**

# Use public information only

Use this checklist to review what your name, email addresses, usernames, phone number and public profiles may reveal about you online. You do not need special tools or technical knowledge. Complete each check using only information and accounts that belong to you.

## Your public digital footprint may include

- Your name and photographs
- Social-media profiles
- Usernames and aliases
- Email addresses and phone numbers
- Workplaces, general locations and old posts
- Directory or data-broker listings

## What you will need

- A private or incognito browser window
- Your commonly used name variations
- Your current and previous email addresses
- Usernames you have used
- Approximately 15 to 30 minutes to begin



### Inspector Scout says

Only search for information about yourself or another person who has clearly authorised you to do so. Do not access private accounts, bypass security controls, guess passwords or obtain restricted information.



# Search-engine visibility

Start by seeing what an ordinary person could find through a basic search engine.

## Your name

- Search your full name inside quotation marks.
- Search common variations: surname, previous surname, nickname, initials and name without special characters.
- Search your name with your town, city, region, workplace, profession, school, club or organisation.
- Review at least the first three pages of relevant search results.

Examples: "Alex Taylor" Perth, "Alex Taylor" company name, "Alex Taylor" photography club

## Images and documents

- Review image-search results for photographs connected to your name.
- Check whether photographs reveal workplace, home area, vehicle, family or regular locations.
- Search your name with public document file types.
- Look for newsletters, event programs, club records, conference pages or old resumes.

Examples: "Alex Taylor" filetype:pdf, "Alex Taylor" filetype:doc



### Scout's Tip

Repeat important searches while logged out or using a private browser window. Personalised results may look different from what a stranger sees.

### Notes - what did you find?

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### ACTION REQUIRED

- None
- Review later

- Remove or update information
- Investigate further



# Email-address exposure

An email address can connect accounts, profiles, old posts and breach records.

## Public visibility

- Search your main email address inside quotation marks.
- Repeat for previous or less frequently used email addresses.
- Check public profiles, directories, community sites, forums, newsletters, old ads and contact pages.
- Check whether the email name reveals full name, birth year, workplace, profession, location, school or organisation.

## Data-breach indicators

- Check your email addresses using a reputable breach-notification service.
- Record which services or websites were involved.
- Change passwords for affected accounts that are still active.
- Make sure you are not reusing an exposed password elsewhere.

**Important:** A breach notification does not necessarily mean someone accessed your account. It means information connected to that account may have appeared in a known data breach.

## Email addresses reviewed / possible exposure found

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## ACTION REQUIRED

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change password                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Replace old email address       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enable multi-factor authentication | <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor for suspicious activity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Remove public email listing        |  |



# Username and account connections

Reusing the same username can allow separate accounts to be connected.

## Review your usernames

- List the usernames, screen names or handles you commonly use.
- Search each username inside quotation marks.
- Review whether the same username appears across different platforms.
- Check whether it connects personal and professional profiles, gaming and social accounts, old forums, marketplace profiles or anonymous accounts.
- Close or update abandoned accounts where practical.

### Usernames to review

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### Scout's Tip

A single username may not appear sensitive. The risk comes from combined information visible across several connected accounts.

### Connected accounts found

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### ACTION REQUIRED

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Close old accounts                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Separate personal and professional accounts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change public username             | <input type="checkbox"/> No action required                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Remove identifying profile details |  |

## Social-media visibility

Review your social-media profiles as a stranger would see them.

### Public profile review

- Open each profile while logged out or using a private browser window.
- Check visible name, profile photo, cover photo, biography, workplace, education, relationship, home town, current city, email, phone and website links.
- Review public posts, comments, old profile photos and cover photos.
- Check tagged photos, posts, location tags and mentions by other people.
- Remove or restrict information that no longer needs to be public.

### Questions to consider

- Could someone identify where you work?
- The area where you live?
- Your family members?
- Your regular routine?
- When your home may be unattended?
- Your personal email or phone number?

### Notes

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# Phone numbers, directories and data brokers

## Phone-number visibility

- Search your full phone number inside quotation marks.
- Try local and international number formats.
- Check business listings, marketplace ads, public social profiles, community directories, old sites, resumes, uploaded documents and service ads.
- Review whether the number is still required on those pages.
- Consider a separate business number where public contact details are necessary.

Examples: "0412 345 678", "0412345678", "+61 412 345 678"

## Directories and data brokers

- Search your name with suburb, city or general location.
- Search terms such as phone, address, contact, directory, profile, business, property and public record.
- Check professional, business, community, sporting-club and membership pages.
- Record the page URL before requesting correction or removal.
- Use official opt-out, correction or removal processes where available.

**Important:** Removal is not always immediate or permanent. Some websites republish information from other public sources. Recheck important listings periodically.

## Removal tracker

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## ACTION TAKEN

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Removal requested    | <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring only    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Correction requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Follow-up date set |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Account closed       |   |

## Location, routines and old accounts

### Location and routine clues

- Review public photos for house numbers, street signs, vehicle details, uniforms, badges, school names or club details.
- Review posts containing live or recent location information.
- Check whether public fitness or activity profiles show routes near home.
- Avoid announcing travel or extended absences in real time.
- Review location-sharing settings on social and fitness applications.

### Old accounts and forgotten content

- Search old usernames and email addresses.
- Review old forums, blogs, discussion boards, marketplace ads, game accounts, hobby accounts and competition entries.
- Close accounts you no longer need.
- Remove personal details from accounts that cannot be closed.
- Record accounts requiring follow-up.



### Scout's Tip

A single photograph may seem harmless. Several photographs over time can reveal a home area, workplace, routine or frequently visited location.

### Account cleanup list

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### ACTION

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delete account          | <input type="checkbox"/> Update information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Make private            | <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to remove   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Remove personal details | <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor            |



# Your digital-footprint action plan

Use this section to prioritise what you found.

**Remove - information that should no longer be public**

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**Make private - accounts, posts or details to restrict**

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**Correct - outdated or inaccurate information**

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**Update - passwords, security settings or account details**

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**Monitor - information that cannot currently be removed**

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**Investigate further - findings that need more context**

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## Priority checklist and result guidance

### Complete these actions first if they apply

- Remove publicly visible home-address information.
- Remove unnecessary public phone-number listings.
- Secure accounts connected to known breach records.
- Change reused or exposed passwords.
- Enable multi-factor authentication on important accounts.
- Restrict posts revealing children, family or routines.
- Review profiles visible to people who are not logged in.
- Close abandoned accounts.
- Separate highly connected personal and professional usernames.
- Record removal requests and follow up where necessary.

### Few obvious indicators

You found limited personal information through basic searches. This does not mean no information exists. Continue using sensible privacy settings and repeat the review periodically.

### Some indicators requiring attention

You found several profiles, listings or details that may need updating, restricting or removing. Work through your action plan in order of importance.

### Several connected indicators

You found information across multiple sources that could be combined to create a detailed picture of you. Prioritise home address, phone numbers, account security, family details and predictable routines.

**Important:** This checklist is a self-assessment tool. It does not create a formal privacy score, measure every possible risk or confirm that every result belongs to you.

## When a self-check may not be enough

A self-check is a useful starting point, but it may not reveal every connection or provide enough context to decide what matters most.

### A self-check may miss

- Connections between different usernames and profiles
- Information indexed under name variations
- Old or less obvious public references
- The context and relevance of individual findings
- Which findings are likely to create the greatest privacy concern
- Whether similar records actually relate to you

### A Get Privacy Report explains

- What was found and where it appeared
- Why it may matter
- What could not be confirmed
- Which actions should be prioritised
- What you can do next

## Ready for a deeper review?

View a fictional sample report or order a manual public-source privacy report.



Sample Report

[www.getprivacyreport.com/sample-report.html](http://www.getprivacyreport.com/sample-report.html)



Order Report

[www.getprivacyreport.com/order.html](http://www.getprivacyreport.com/order.html)



# About Get Privacy Report

Built in Australia and available worldwide, Get Privacy Report helps people understand what is publicly visible about them online. We use ethical public-source research and human review to explain digital-footprint findings in clear, practical language.

## We do not

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>No</b> access private accounts   | <b>No</b> request passwords                 |
| <b>No</b> bypass security controls  | <b>No</b> conduct private investigations    |
| <b>No</b> provide background checks | <b>No</b> guarantee removal                 |
| <b>No</b> provide legal advice      | <b>No</b> guarantee complete search results |

## Useful links

- [About Get Privacy Report](#)
- [Methodology](#)
- [Disclaimer](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Terms of Service](#)



How it works

[Methodology](#)



## Meet Inspector Scout

Inspector Scout is the friendly Get Privacy Report mascot and your guide to understanding online exposure. Scout helps explain public-source research and practical privacy actions in a calm, approachable way.

**Know what is public. Understand what matters. Take action.**

[www.getprivacyreport.com](http://www.getprivacyreport.com)