

Social Networking-New fad or New danger?

The topic I've chosen is privacy and social networking. Social networking in the sense I'm trying to convey is people connecting over the Internet given various relationships, personal or professional. One specific area of interest is social networking websites, including myspace, facebook, friendster, and the like. It allows people miles and miles away to stay in touch. However, the privacy an individual has on the sites isn't as easily determined as the websites make you believe.

Why do I want to research the topic of privacy? I think that those who appose reform in privacy of individuals think that if we have nothing to hide we shouldn't hide it. While one thing might truly be harmless it might hurt certain aspects of ones life. Given the popularity of social networking sites such as facebook and myspace, privacy becomes a question. Why am I getting a service for free where I share so much information about myself? Anyone who uses the services can tell ads are geared toward information you post of them, no matter how inaccurate the algorithms for mining this data are. The social networking benefits of these sites are great, but is it worth the cost of our privacy? This is what I plan to research.

I plan to make a presentation as I believe if I am going to present in front of a group, reading a paper might not be as engaging. I really want to see how my findings come first. If the information gathered is more geared toward using powerpoint as opposed to word, then I'll do that. But I am a little unsure about which direction I'll go in.