

Talking Point chat room 26 January
Safety and privacy online

SerenaS	Welcome to the Talking Point chat room. Tonight is our monthly evening session and we're discussing privacy and safety online.
SerenaS	If you'd like to ask a question or say something, just type in the white box at the top and click 'OK'
SerenaS	Thinking about online safety, have you had a 'close escape' with an online danger?
SerenaS	Or, have you wondered what is or isn't private on Talking Point, and whether we do anything to keep you safe?
SerenaS	If you haven't thought a lot about online safety, I'd recommend the 'get safe online' website - it's a good starting point :)
SerenaS	www.getsafeonline.org
dendanloops	Thank you. my dad has recently been diagnosed with Alzheimer's and I'm feeling a little overwhelmed at the moment
dendanloops	I don't really have anything to contribute about privacy and safety online... sorry
SerenaS	I'm sorry to hear about your dad's diagnosis dendanloops - I can understand why you'd be feeling overwhelmed.
SerenaS	Please don't worry if you don't have anything to contribute. I can tell you a little about how we look after you on Talking Point, if you like :)
Izzy	Hi dendanloops. Welcome to TP. I'm sorry to hear about your dad's diagnosis.
jaymor	Good evening all.
SerenaS	Hello jaymor :) Hi Izzy :)
SerenaS	Do you have any questions, or top tips about privacy and safety online?
Sue J	Evening all from me too, sounds like Dixon of Dock Green!
SerenaS	Ello ello ello Sue :)
Izzy	I'm far too young to remember Dixon of Dock Green!
jaymor	Not using your own name as a username on an open forum and not giving too much information when talking about legal action either present or future. Remember TP is an open forum for anyone to read.
SerenaS	That's helpful jaymor - if we spot someone on Talking Point who we think has used their full name, we contact them and explain why this can be unsafe, and offer to change it. A nickname gives us freedom to share our true feelings :)
SerenaS	It's also important not to mention your address or any other details that could identify you.
jaymor	I have never made where I live public either, maybe that is taking it too far.
SerenaS	I think you're probably ok mentioning a general area, e.g. Warwick but mentioning specific streets etc. isn't wise.
Izzy	I post lots of pictures of my husband and myself on his thread in the Tearoom. I know it is members only but I also realise that anyone can become a member. I've just got into the habit of posting our photos. Not everyone is comfortable with doing that and I think people need to think about it carefully before doing it.
SerenaS	Thanks Izzy - it's good for everyone to recognise that the members' only parts of TP can still be seen by lots of people. Some are comfortable sharing photos. If anyone is worried, they can contact us about this by emailing talkingpoint@alzheimers.org.uk

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Izzy	There's a good reminder about the privacy issue in the Help part of the forum - http://forum.alzheimers.org.uk/faq.php?faq=about_talking_point#faq_privacyon_talkingpoint
SerenaS	Thanks for including the link to the Talking Point privacy information Izzy.
jimbo 111	I sometimes wonder if members are aware that (with the exception of the Members Only Forum) that their posts are printed on the open internet
jaymor	Hello Jimbo
SerenaS	Hello jimbo :) That's one of the reasons why we encourage members not to use their full name or share personal information
jimbo 111	For example if you highlight any post on" I care for a person with dementia "you will be able to read the post as it appears on TP
SerenaS	Yes, you're right, jimbo. One reason why we have 'public' forums is because many members find Talking Point and read discussions for a long time before they feel brave enough to post
jimbo 111	I think the danger is that members may respond to a post because of their interest ,but not take into account what forum it is on ,and inadvertently disclose details they would rather not be available on the open internet
SerenaS	That's very true jimbo. I'd say - if you see anything where you think someone may have crossed the line, please report it and we can check it out.
jaymor	I think it is equally important to be careful how much detail you give out when sending a pm. It may be private away from the forum but the person is still someone you know very little about unless of course you know them.
SerenaS	That's very true jaymor - Private Messages should be used carefully. Also, if members get a message they're not comfortable with, they should click the report button.
Izzy	Is it possible to report a post from the app? I tried to do that earlier today when I was using my iPhone but I could see how to do it.
SerenaS	Yes, it is. To report a post in the app, you have to long press on it to highlight and then tap the three dots in the corner and choose 'report'
jaymor	I know the volunteer moderators work very hard to keep the site free of spam.
SerenaS	That's true jaymor - one of the tasks moderators do is to check new member profiles and respond to reported posts - we do get SPAM on TP but it's usually gone in minutes!
SerenaS	Another resource to mention - WebWise on the BBC's website http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise
jaymor	Thank you Serena I have jotted that down, will take a look.
SerenaS	Has anyone popped into Barclays and had a chat to a Digital Eagle? They're supposed to be on hand to help get more out of technology
SerenaS	I can't vouch for the Barclays people, just curious to see if anyone has used one...
jaymor	I thought that was just for oldies and at 70 I don't qualify just yet!
SerenaS	I don't know jaymor!
Oxy	I don't do Internet banking as just don't feel comfortable with security aspect. Or bills for that matter.

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SerenaS	That's another good point, Oxy. It's good to be security conscious and to do what we feel is comfortable.
Oxy	I use gift cards when I buy music etc.
Oxy	However fear that day will come when we have no option-many years down line or sooner!
SerenaS	We've got just a couple of minutes left of today's session. Before we go, if you are ever unsure about security or privacy on Talking Point, please either report the post or contact us on talkingpoint@alzheimers.org.uk
Izzy	Sorry I disappeared! A loo excursion required (not for me!). Nice to talk to everyone. Bye. x
Sue J	Thank you for what you and the team and Mods do to keep us safe Serena
Sue J	I'm signing out too bye all
Oxy	Thank you
SerenaS	Thanks everyone for your time, and thanks to those of you who report posts - you help us to keep Talking Point safe for everyone :)

Thanks for reading the transcript from our chat room session on 26 January.

Some helpful resources on this topic are listed below:

Talking Point's guidance on Privacy and Staying safe online:

[Safety on Talking Point](#)

[Our guidelines on privacy – part of Talking Point's terms and conditions](#)

Get safe online – guidance from the UK government:

<https://www.getsafeonline.org/>

Metropolitan Police website on internet safety:

http://safe.met.police.uk/internet_safety/get_the_facts.html

Webwise – making the most of being online (a BBC resource)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/topics/safety-and-privacy/>

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If you have questions about our chat room, please contact us by emailing

talkingpoint@alzheimers.org.uk

You can view the chat room here: <http://forum.alzheimers.org.uk/chatroom.php>