



Facebook Security

Surrey & Sussex CCU Newsletter

The CCU has recently identified a significant increase in Facebook account compromises. In a single week, these accounted for 100% of the reports received by the unit. If you have tried to correspond with a global company about such an incident you will be only too aware how frustrating it can be. And the worst thing is that this is almost entirely preventable – so if you want to secure your social media accounts, read on!

Why would anyone want to access my Facebook account?

Almost inevitably, hackers will use this tactic for financial gain. We generally see friends being messaged after the takeover with some spurious request for money or Amazon vouchers – using an excuse suggesting the account holder is indisposed with no access to funds. In the same way as the style of a phishing message will try to trick people, this method often results in a financial loss to people you have ‘friended’ on Facebook. There are other reasons why people may want to access your account – maybe the hacker just wants to access private information, maybe it is just because they can. The good news is that you can stop them!

Strong Credentials

I have spoken many times about strong passwords. It is important to use them! A strong password is longer than 12 characters, consists of 3 random words and can be strengthened by including capitals, numbers, and symbols. All passwords should also be completely different meaning that you need a way to ‘remember’ them. Use your browser or a password manager to help. And lastly, your password is precious – keep it to yourself!

And remember, if your device supports them, you can use the built-in security mechanisms like fingerprints or face recognition.

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Is a strong password enough?

In short, no. Unfortunately, there are many ways that criminals can get hold of username and password combinations and, once someone knows your credentials, they can access your account. **It is vital to set up 2-Factor-Authentication (2FA) on your Facebook account.** 2FA uses your mobile phone to deliver a one-time-passcode (OTP) to confirm your identity. This means that unless the cyber criminals have access to your mobile phone – they simply cannot get into your account. 2FA is improving all the time and is far easier to use now than ever before.

2FA is available on most social media platforms, most mainstream email accounts, and many shopping sites. I would thoroughly recommend that 2FA is implemented on all such accounts – it really will keep them safe!

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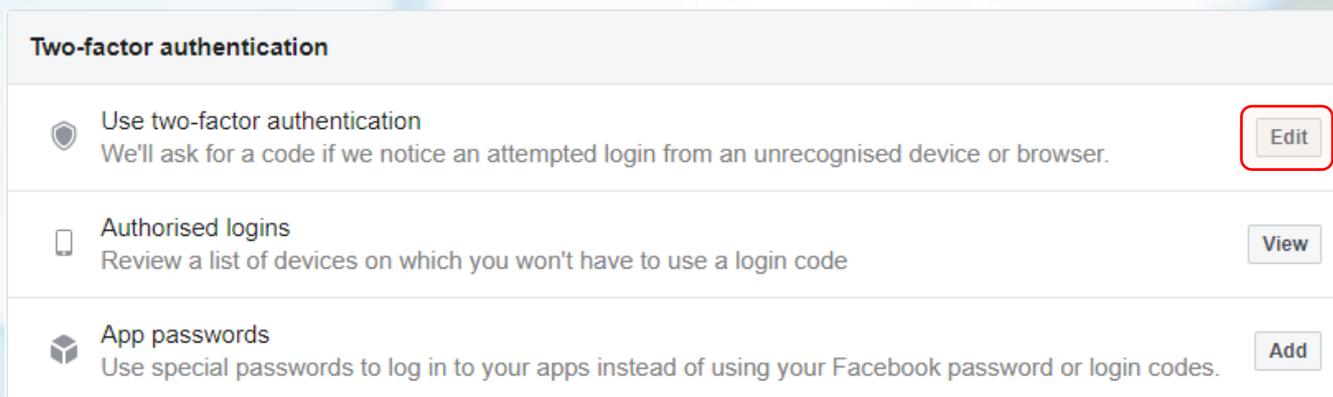
Are you interested in a free cyber awareness presentation? Our Protect & Prepare team can deliver online presentations to businesses and other groups (20+ attendees) across Surrey & Sussex. These are approximately 1 – 1½ hours in duration and cover a range of current cyber topics.

Please e-mail CyberCrimeUnit@surrey.pnn.police.uk for further information.

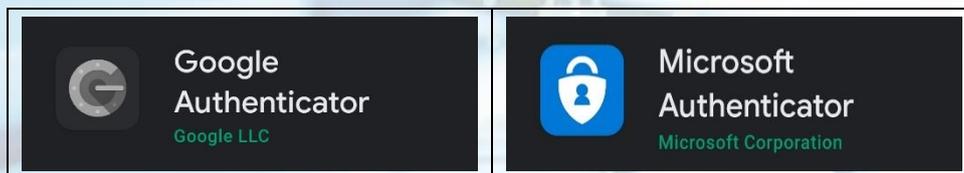


How do you set it up?

Setting up 2FA on your Facebook account is easy! Login to your account and go to 'Account' -> 'Settings and privacy' -> 'Settings'. From the settings screen, choose 'Security and login'. Scroll down to the 'Two-factor authentication' section and click edit.



With Facebook, you can opt to have codes sent by text-message to your mobile phone or you can use an authentication app to generate 2FA codes. 2 popular authentication apps are Microsoft Authenticator and Google Authenticator but there are many others to choose from. Visit your app store to choose the one you want to use and follow the instructions to get your account nice and secure!



It is worth having a look at the other sections within 'Security and login'. You can see what devices you have used to log into your account (and remove them if you do not recognise them). You can set up alerts if someone else logs into your account. Regular checks will enable you to ensure your account remains nice and secure.

"2FA is the best way to secure your online accounts. It makes it almost impossible for cyber criminals to access them. Set it up wherever you can!"

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