

# LinkedIn

## Why you should lock down your LinkedIn

LinkedIn is one of an attacker's favourite tools for gathering information about you. It tells them where you work, where you live, what job you do and what systems you use. And it's invaluable for attacking either you personally or the company you work for.

Two questions to ask yourself if you're a LinkedIn user:

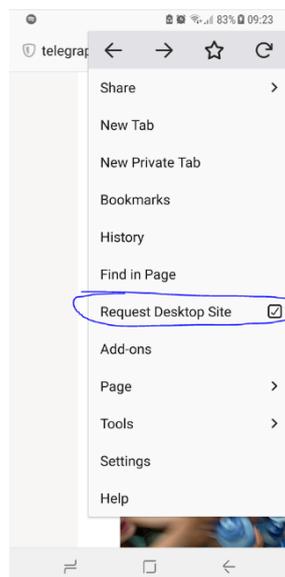
- Do I need LinkedIn for my job?
- Am I looking for a new job?

If the answer's no to both, ask yourself why you're on LinkedIn. To make yourself less vulnerable either delete your LinkedIn account or improve the privacy settings.

## Making your LinkedIn more private

1. Just like Facebook, you must be signed in on a computer or laptop to change the settings.

If you're on a mobile device request the desktop version via a browser settings (e.g. chrome, Firefox or internet explorer). Click the three dots in the top right and select request desktop site.



2. Click the Me button, then Settings & Privacy

Home

My Network Jobs Messaging Notifications Me

**Nick Data**  
View profile

**ACCOUNT**

- Settings & Privacy
- Help Center
- Language

**MANAGE**

- Posts & Activity
- Job postings
- Sign out

**Nick Data**  
Threat Intel Analyst  
SKYNET • Grand Lakes University  
United Kingdom • 0

### 3. Select the Privacy tab

Account **Privacy** Communications

**Profile privacy**

- Blocking and hiding
- Job seeking
- Data privacy and advertising
- Security

**Profile privacy**

<b>Edit your public profile</b>	Change
Choose how your profile appears to non-logged in members via search engines or permitted services	
<b>Manage active status</b>	Change
Choose how your active status is displayed to your connections	
<b>Who can see your connections</b>	Change
Choose who can see your list of connections	Connections
<b>Viewers of this profile also viewed</b>	Change
Choose whether or not this feature appears when people view your profile	Yes
<b>Sharing profile edits</b>	Change
Choose whether your network is notified about profile changes	No
<b>Profile viewing options</b>	Change
Choose whether you're visible or viewing in private mode	Full profile
<b>Notifying connections when you're in the news</b>	Change
Choose whether we notify people in your network that you've been mentioned in an article or blog post	Yes
<b>Who can see your last name</b>	Change
Choose how you want your name to appear	Full

4. Click change on Edit your public profile.

The screenshot shows the LinkedIn 'Public profile settings' page for a user named Nick Data. The page is divided into several sections:

- Public profile settings:** A header section explaining that this is how the profile appears to non-signed-in viewers and that users can control visibility and update their URL.
- Profile Summary:** Includes a profile picture of Nick Data, his name, title 'Threat Intel Analyst', location 'United Kingdom | Security and Investigations', and current employer 'SKYNET' with education at 'Grand Lakes University'. It also shows '0 connections'.
- Experience:** Lists 'Threat Intel Analyst' at 'SKYNET' from April 2016 to Present (1 year 8 months) in London, UK, with a description: 'Tech Startup using Artificial Intelligence to safeguard users'.
- Education:** Lists 'Grand Lakes University' with a Bachelor of Science in BS, Cyber/Electronic Operations and Warfare, 2012-2016, and 'Malory Towers' from 2005-2011.
- Edit public profile URL:** A section to enhance the personal brand by creating a custom URL, showing the current URL: 'www.linkedin.com/in/nick-data-192ba814a'.
- Customize Your Public Profile:** A section to select what shows via searches on Bing, Google, etc. It includes options for visibility (radio buttons) and content visibility (checkboxes):
  - Visibility options: 'Make my public profile visible to no one' (unselected), 'Make my public profile visible to everyone' (selected).
  - Content visibility options: 'Basics (required)' (checked), 'Picture' (checked), 'Your connections' (unselected), 'Your network' (unselected), 'All LinkedIn Members' (unselected), 'Public' (selected).
  - Content sections: 'Headline' (checked), 'Current Experience' (checked), 'Past Experience' (checked), 'Education' (checked).
- Save:** A blue button at the bottom right to save the changes.

5. On the settings on the right select 'Make my public profile visible to no-one'. This means that you can't be found by search engines or by people without an account.
6. Back on the privacy tab, turn off 'Manage active status' as it's giving away unnecessary information.
7. Set 'Who can see your connections' to only you
8. Set 'Viewers of this profile also viewed' to off. For an attacker this function is invaluable as it can help them figure out a company's org chart and who they can impersonate to get to you. It's the single most exploitable feature of LinkedIn apart from the information you post yourself.
9. The next 3 settings don't matter. But the last setting in profile privacy, 'Who can see your last name', should be enabled. This means that only connections can see your full name and it gives better protection against attackers trying to get your information.

Now update the 'Blocking and Hiding' and 'Job Seeking' sections

## Blocking and hiding

<b>Followers</b> Choose who can follow you and see your public updates	Change Everyone
<b>Blocking</b> See your list, and make changes if you'd like	Change
<b>Unfollowed</b> See who you have unfollowed, and resume following if you'd like	Change

## Job seeking

<b>Sharing your profile when you click apply</b> Choose if you want to share your full profile with the job poster when you're taken off LinkedIn after clicking apply	Change No
<b>Let recruiters know you're open to opportunities</b> Share that you're open and appear in recruiter searches matching your career interests	Change

10. Set 'Followers' to your connections.
11. You don't need to change the other settings in these sections
12. The last two sections are 'Data Privacy' and 'Advertising and Security'

## Data privacy and advertising

<b>Manage who can discover your profile from your email address</b> Choose who can discover your profile if they have your email address	Change Everyone
<b>Manage who can discover your profile from your phone number</b> Choose who can discover your profile if they have your phone number	Change Everyone
<b>Representing your organization</b> Choose if we can show your profile information on your employer's pages	Change Yes
<b>Profile visibility off LinkedIn</b> Choose how your profile appears via partners' and other permitted services  Should we show information from your profile to users of permitted services such as Outlook? <a href="#">Learn more</a>  Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Close Yes
<b>Advertising preferences</b> Choose whether LinkedIn can serve interest-based advertising through our platform for services	Change No

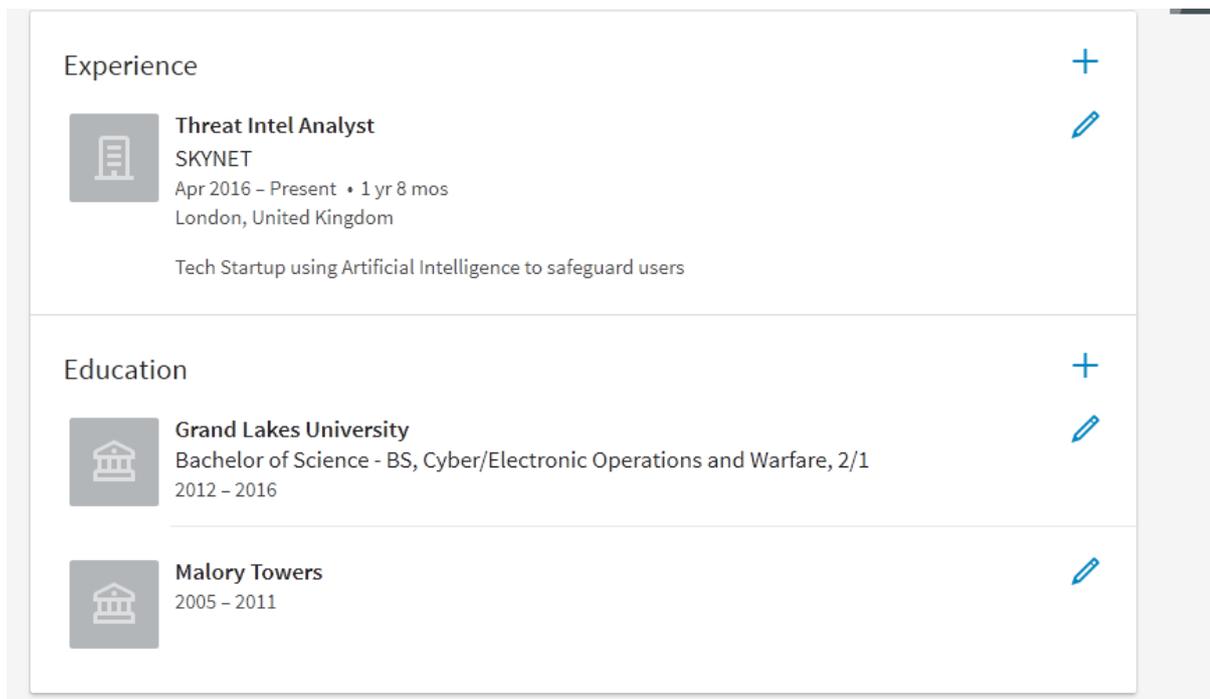
## Security

<b>Two-step verification</b> Activate this feature for enhanced account security	Change Off
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13. Set both 'Manage who can discover your profile from your ...' to nobody as email addresses can be guessed and can be found by illegitimate means.
14. Set 'Representing your organisation' to off – leaving it on opens you up to far too many people.

That's it for settings. Now go back to your profile

15. Go through your profile and remove all locations from your account. They're giving information away that can help attackers. To edit information click on the pen button. If you can't remove the location just put in a false one.
16. Remove where you went to high school
17. Don't list any systems you use or anything about your job on LinkedIn. If you say you're Head of Emergency Service Assurance, you're making yourself a very attractive target. The golden rule of LinkedIn is keep it vague.



How your profile should look

**Nick Data**  
Threat Intel Analyst  
SKYNET  
United Kingdom • 0 &

Profile Strength: **Intermediate**

**Your Dashboard**  
*Private to you*

0 Who viewed your profile	0 Post views	0 Search appearances
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**Career interests**  
Let recruiters know you're open: **Off**  
Choose the types of opportunities you'd like to be connected with

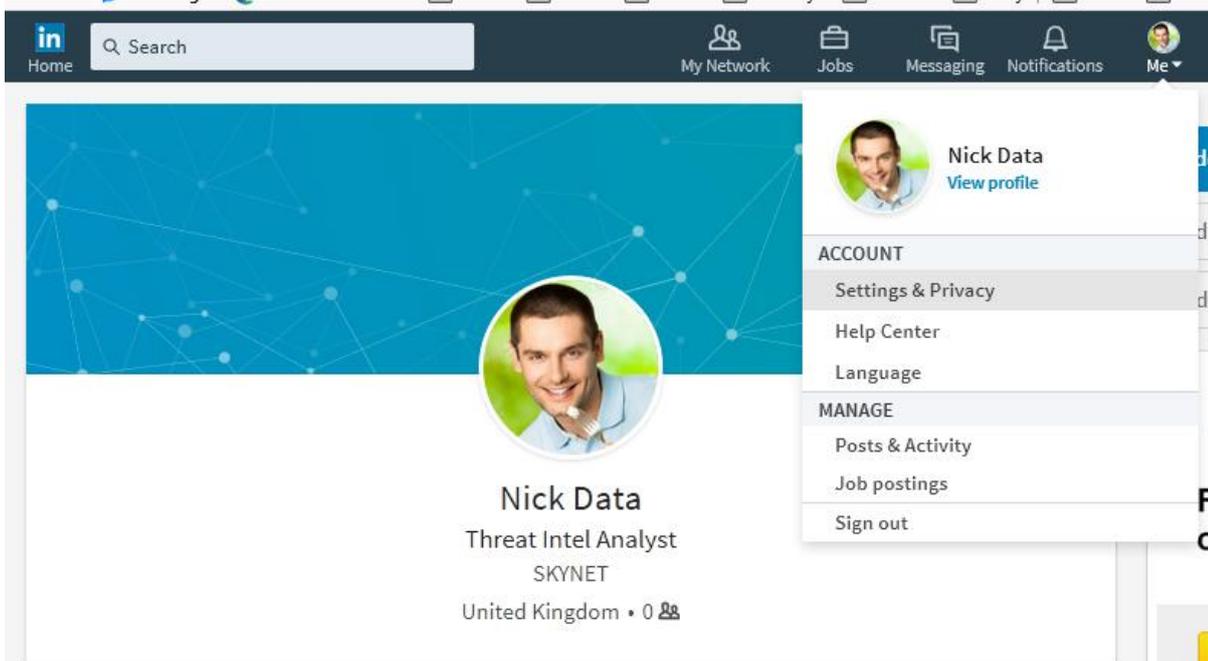
**Experience**

**Threat Intel Analyst**  
SKYNET  
Apr 2016 – Present • 1 yr 8 mos  
London, United Kingdom  
Tech Startup using Artificial Intelligence to safeguard users

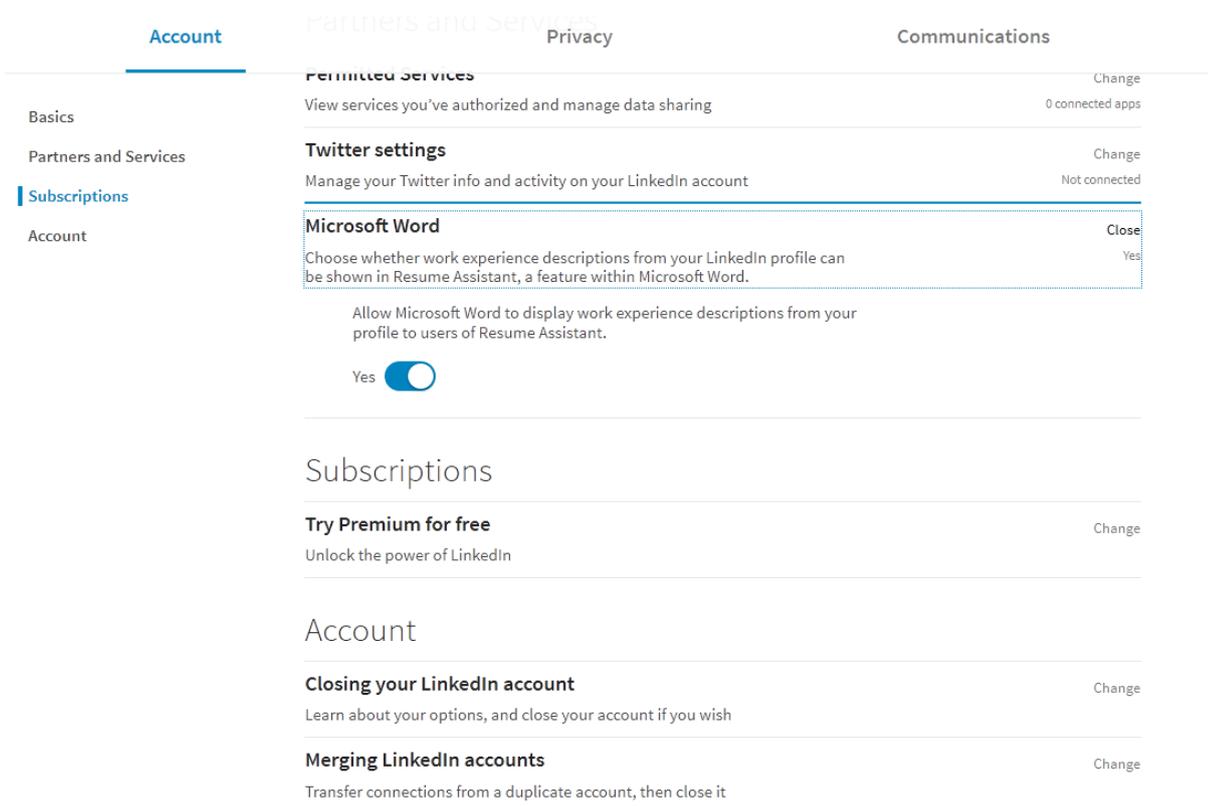
## How to delete your LinkedIn account

Deleting your LinkedIn is simple.

1. Click on you and then go to the settings tab



2. On the account tab scroll to the bottom and click on closing your account



3. Choose your reason then click next

## Nick, we're sorry to see you go

Tell us why you're closing your account:

- I have a duplicate account
- I'm getting too many emails
- I'm not getting any value from my membership
- I have a privacy concern

Did you know you can control how much information you share on LinkedIn? Visit your [Privacy Settings](#) to see your options.

For more information, you can also [export your LinkedIn data](#), view our [Privacy Policy](#), and visit our [Help Center](#) to learn more about protecting your privacy.

- I'm receiving unwanted contact
- Other

Your feedback matters. Is there anything else you'd like us to know?

[Back to Settings](#)

[Next](#)

### 4. Put in your password and close your account

--End--