Social Media Self-Defense

A Guide to Stopping Stalkers

Pseudonymity

★ Choose a public name, and use it!
  ○ Shortened version of your legal name
  ○ Middle names
  ○ Anything you want!
★ Make sure it is something you will respond to.
★ Reserve your legal name for "official" things.
★ Work on NOT responding when someone uses your legal name.

Disinformation & Misdirection

★ More info available means less digging!

★ Consistency is more important than truth.

★ Being mind-numbingly boring helps!

○ Endless pictures of your lunch

○ Very boring, extremely detailed stories
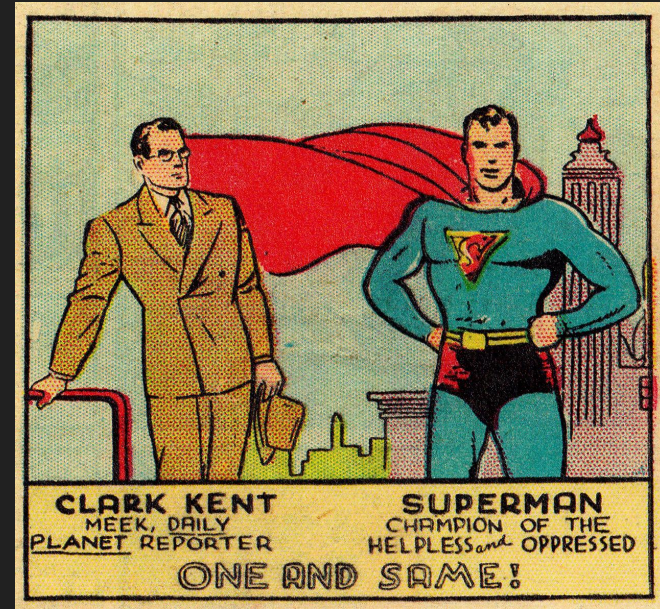
○ Trite memes

○ Cat pictures

★ Subtlety is key.

Compartmentalization

★ Consider keeping social media profiles separate

★ Use different handles

★ Use unique email addresses

  ○ elle.fb@gmail.com

  ○ elle.twitter@gmail.com

  ○ armageddon.okc@gmail.com

★ Fabricate unique personally-identifying information

Professional vs. Personal

★ Don't share profiles with co-workers.

★ Don't share profiles with your boss.

★ Consider a work-specific profile.

★ Do NOT use your work email for personal accounts.

★ What you say publicly can hurt you professionally.

CLARK KENT
MEEK, DAILY
PLANET REPORTER

SUPERMAN
CHAMPION OF THE
HELPLESS and OPPRESSED

ONE AND SAME!

Choosing Photos

★ Beware reverse image search.
★ Don't use the same pictures in profiles you want to keep separate.
★ USE reverse image search!
★ Don't attach your face to profiles you don't want linked to your public identity.
★ Don't attach your face to your legal name.

Keeping Secrets

★ Secrets are not secret once they are shared.

★ Good intentions can't stop thoughtless comments.

★ Once it's out, you can't get it back.

★ The internet does not forget.

★ Keep it secret, keep it safe.

"I don't recall."

Threat Modeling

★ Nobody knows your threat model better than you do.

★ It's not about telling you what to do, it's about helping you decide how to do it.

★ Live safely, but don't let safety stop you from living.

Communication

★ Your privacy is only as good as your friends' privacy.

★ Tell people your information-sharing preferences.

★ Talk to your friends about tagging!

★ Don't stay silent.

What Can You Do?

★ Don't make assumptions.

★ Talk to your users about their concerns.

★ Keep lines of communication open
   so users can bring concerns to you.

★ Believe users when they tell you
   they are worried.

Contact Me!

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