



Social Media APP Bulletin



FriendLife

FriendLife is a hot new social network where you can get tons of new friends and followers. You can share photos, message each other and stream live video!

Traffic to the FriendLife app has been decreasing since late 2016, with the majority of views originating from India and the U.S.

FriendLife has been linked to a number of cases where a male has set up a fake profile and groomed young girls through the app, often befriending very vulnerable victims. Communication has begun on FriendLife and often moves the communication onto other platforms such as snapchat and WhatsApp, where the offending takes place.

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SNAPCHAT *Snap Map*

Snapchat is one of the biggest social media sites used among young persons. The anonymity of the app presents a tempting place for groomers while being a difficult platform to manage from both schools and police force's points of view.

Snapchat has released a new feature called SNAP MAP that shows publically posted images on a searchable map. It is raising significant safety concerns, given the feature displays a map of nearby friends, showing their latest location gathered using a smartphone's GPS sensor. Users of the app can also search for locations such as individual schools, with the app displaying public photos and videos sent by students (public refers to media uploaded via the app's 'Our story' feature)

The company have stated that location-sharing is off by default and is opt-in, however it is advisable to manually check. Snap Map only shows location information to people on a user's contact list, so knowing who is on your contact list is vital.

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SNAPCHAT Snap Map

The UK Safer Internet Centre said:

"It is important to be careful about who you share your location with, as it can allow people to build up a picture of where you live, go to school and spend your time. Given how specific this new feature is on Snapchat - giving your location to a precise pinpoint on a map - we would encourage users not to share their location, especially with people they don't know in person."

For more information from the UK safer internet center click [HERE](#)

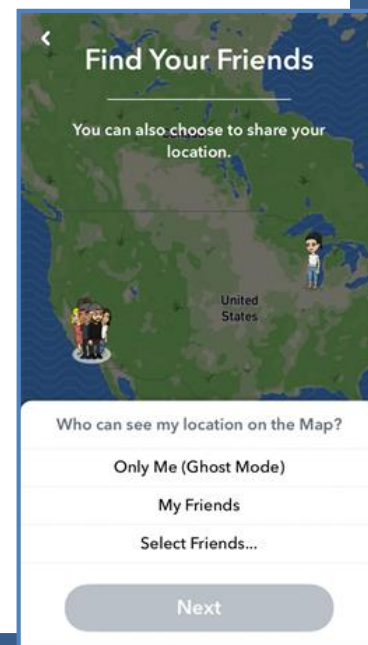
How to switch off Snap Map location sharing

•When in photo-taking mode, pinch the screen to open Snap Map. entering for the first time the screen on the right appears.

Otherwise:

- Touch the settings cog in the top right corner of the screen.
- Tap "Ghost Mode" to switch off location sharing.

However photos and videos posted to Snapchat's public 'Our Story' will still be discoverable on the map



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SKOUT

The world's largest app for meeting new people. With millions of users all over the world. Skout gives you the ability to connect with people no matter where you are. Skout matches you with people you want to chat with, whether they are nearby or in a city you want to visit.

This app has been used within the region, in Devon and Cornwall, to send and request indecent images of children and attempt to incite children to engage in sexual activity online.

As with a lot of apps, the popularity of which ebbs and flows, the non app specific advice should be adhered to. Young persons should ensure they use age appropriate apps, be wary of the information and or images they choose to share online, as the person on the other end may not be the person they have made themselves out to be.

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With the internet and apps evolving every week it can be easy to feel like technology is moving too fast for us, however it doesn't change the fact that young people will always seek to interact with technology and will always require our advice and support when online.

Below are a number of resources to help educate adults and young people around the issue of online safety and app security:

The **UK safer internet centre**; where you can find e-safety tips, advice and resources to help children and young people stay safe online.

The **Revenge porn hotline**; the only organisation providing such a service in the UK, providing support and advice to the victims of the non-consensual sharing of intimate images and cyber-enabled blackmail (known as sextortion).

POSH (The Professionals Online Safety Helpline); The Professionals Online Safety Helpline is a free service for all professionals and volunteers working with children and young people. It provides signposting, advice and mediation to resolve online safety issues staff face about themselves, such as protecting professional identity and online harassment, or problems affecting young people, for example cyber-bullying or sexting issues. Where appropriate we can also provide advice or facilitate in the removal on harmful content. POSH have created good relationships with many of the giant tech companies and are a great place to start if you have any concerns with a particular site or App.

[UK Safer internet centre](#) [Professionals Online Safety Helpline](#) [Revenge porn hotline](#) [Protecting young people from online grooming](#)

Please support the Revenge Porn hotline crowdfunding campaign www.crowdfunder.co.uk/revenge-porn-helpline

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