

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about EPC Community

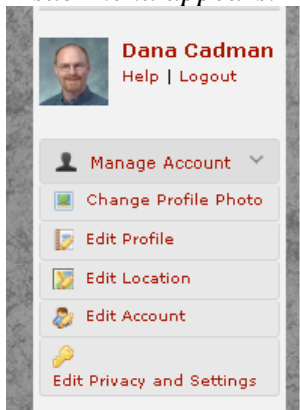
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Q: Why do I have to provide my birthday when I create a profile?

A: It's required, but you can hide it. To hide your birthday or age:

1. Click the **Manage Account** link near the bottom of the left-side navigation control.

A sub-menu appears.



2. Click the **Edit Privacy and Settings** link.
The Edit Privacy and Settings page displays.
3. To hide your birthday, click **Hide** under the **Date of Birth** setting.
4. To hid your age, click **Hide** under the **Age** setting.
5. Click the **Update** button.

Requiring birthdays to create a profile is a common feature among all social networking platforms. It's usually included for legal requirements - if a 10-year old claims they are 13, and the network requires them to be at least 13 to create an account, the social network is protected from any legal action because the child provided incorrect information for their account.

Why do you have to provide it for EPC Community? Because the SocialGo platform that EPC Community is built on didn't give us an option. There are many profile questions that were optional that we did not implement, but in this one that we had no choice about.

Fortunately, your birthday is not displayed on your profile – only your age is. No one, not even the system administrator, has access to your birthday. Also know that when we build the next version of EPC Community, we will only require a birth year and not a birthday for your profile.

Q: Why didn't we build EPC Community on Facebook (MySpace, Ning, etc.)?

A: Two reasons – privacy and noise. The freely available social networks like Facebook and MySpace make money by selling your profile information. Facebook has even gone so far as to sell information, about who you connect to, what fan pages you like, what games you play, and so on. We didn't want that. Visit here - <http://mattmckeeon.com/facebook-privacy/> - to see a visual representation of how privacy has eroded on Facebook over time.

The other reason we chose not to use the freely available social networks is because of the amount of "traffic" – status updates – that can appear on your profile page. We want EPC Community to be a place where you can make connections without drowning in a flood of messages.

We chose SocialGo.com because of a combination of features and price. And because we could create a private, advertisement-free environment. The next version of EPC Community will be built on an open source platform that we can customize to protect your data even further while provide you with more tools for creating connections and having conversations.