Sarvika Saravanan

South Forsyth High School

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Our Socially Digital World

Our world has never been more connected through calls, texts, websites, and of course, social media. Impressively, someone posting a picture online could potentially be viewed by a user across the globe in around 5 seconds. Social media is one of the fastest and efficient ways to spread information today. But are platforms such as Instagram, Tiktok, Twitter, etc., as secure and safe as we think they are?

Social media allows for a thoroughly connected international audience, which gives many a huge platform to display themselves, including their personal life. When people post pictures or a message online, anyone can access it. Even with the feature of private accounts, followers can screenshot any media posted by the account and send it to a lengthy network of people who may not have access to the media. These people may manipulate or use your posts in harmful and unintended ways. Therefore, you may not be in as much control of your account as social media platforms claim.

Recently, more social media users have noticed how easy it may be to obtain one's personal information. As a dare, one user claimed that the audience will never be able to find their private information. However, only a few hours later, another user had commented under the video the user's full name, birth date, and state of residence. Although social media platforms state that no one has access to your private information, social media has truly made it easier for users to find others' information.

When posting pictures or information online, it is important to note that anyone can view it. If you have a private account, keep in mind that anyone is able to screenshot and send the media to countless others, making your account as secure as a public one. What we post online matters, and once the media is on the internet, it will stay on the internet. Therefore, it is vital to not overshare and post personal information.