



Republic of the Philippines
National Police Commission
**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE
ANTI-CYBERCRIME GROUP**

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Understanding The Hidden Dangers Of Facebook Quizzes & Challenges

The following information was obtained from different cyber security sources for notification to all parties concerned pursuant to the mandate of the Philippine National Police Anti-Cybercrime Group (PNP ACG) and classified as “Restricted” pursuant to the PNP Regulation 200-012 on Document Security and Impact Rating as high based on PNP Information Communication Technology (ICT) Security Manual s.2010-01 p. 22 and p.129.

SUMMARY

Challenging people to answer a few questions about themselves, posting an image, or answer quizzes, what they are ultimately doing is sharing their personal information that could help hackers and cybercriminals to gain access. Common security questions such as “what was your first car?”, or “what is your mother’s maiden name?” are used to protect everything from email accounts to banking applications. These types of posts are promoting and encouraging users to share personal information about themselves and if given to the wrong hands it could be extremely harmful.

These quizzes are fun and enjoyable, but they can also have a negative effect on your privacy. The developers of these Facebook quizzes could use them to access your personal details listed in your Facebook profile, including your religion, sexual orientation, political affiliation, photos, memberships and events, you attended and more. Hackers can use these questions to build a profile and hack into your accounts or open lines of credit, they could also trick you into clicking on malicious links.

Social media serves a wonderful purpose, yet it can also be extremely dangerous. There are several social media trends among teens that parents should educate themselves about in an effort to protect their children. Popular Facebook quizzes often ask users to answer a series of sharable personal questions, ranging from the name of their pet up to their birth city. Some people see them as a fun way to bond with friends, or a way to make new ones.

RECOMMENDATION

All PNP personnel as well as the public are advised to follow the tips in order to avoid the dangers of Facebook quizzes and challenges, to wit:

- **Be skeptical:** Before take a quiz, figure out who created it. Is it a brand that can be trusted? Just because something appears to be fun and innocent, doesn't mean there isn't any inherent risk.
- **Adjust privacy settings:** Review the privacy settings of your social media account and be strict about what information share and be mindful to whom you are sharing it with.
- **Remove personal details from your profile:** Don't share information like phone number or home address on social media accounts.

For additional information, please refer to the following websites:

- <https://www.familyeducation.com/facebook/dangerous-social-media-trends-among-teens-0>
- <https://www.gravoc.com/2020/04/17/the-hidden-dangers-of-facebook-quizzes-challenges/>
- <https://support.malwarebytes.com/docs/DOC-2295>
- <https://securelist.com/the-banking-trojan-emetet-detailed-analysis/69560/>
- <https://www.bbb.org/article/news-releases/16992-scam-alert-that-facebook-quiz-might-be-a-big-data-company-mining-your-personal-information>

POINT OF CONTACT

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