How to Protect Your Facebook Account From Privacy Breaches

Today I noticed two separate alerts about Facebook privacy breaches and thought I’d pop them into a blog post with instrutions on how to remedy.

The first has to do with browsing – and I would have never noticed it had I not seen Danny Brown’s status update mentioning it. Kudos to you, Danny. Finally, you’re good for something.

If you use Facebook, stop what you’re doing, right now, and hop on over there. Look at your browser window. If it just says: [www.facebook.com/whateveryournameis](http://www.facebook.com/whateveryournameis) and doesn’t first start with https: guess what – you’re browsing on an unsecured connection and your account could easily be compromised. As in hacked.

To fix it, do this:

Go to Account, then Security, then, on Security Settings, look at whether or not you’ve opted for Secure Browsing. If it’s not enabled, do it. Now.

Another thing I discovered today thanks to Kristina Sorelli is that it’s possible, depending on your settings on both Facebook and your mobile phone, that your contacts are all there, for Facebook’s viewing pleasure.

Want to know more? Stop what you’re doing. Yes, now. Go to Account, Edit Friends, Contacts. If you click on contacts, it’ll take a minute, but all the phone numbers that have been imported from your phone (if you have it set to sync) will show up, as will all the contact numbers that people have made visible via their Facebook profiles.

If you don’t want that to happen, select Remove Imported Contacts as shown in the example below.