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Facebook releases Smart Lists feature to group friends by Ritika Sharma

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Social-networking behemoth Facebook has added a new feature to its popular social network that would allow users to categorize groups of friends.

A user can share photos, posts and links with these smaller, isolated groups of Facebook friends exclusively.

Beginning Wednesday, the new feature will allow Facebook users to manage list of friends, providing them with the option to share their embarrassing photos or other personals information with a particular person or a group of friends rather than all of their hundreds of friends.

Organize friends in Smart Lists:- The automatically generated so-called Smart Lists feature divides a userâ€™s Facebook friends into subgroups with whom that person could share photos, posts and updates in more easier way.

The new privacy tool is partly automated, meaning, using the profile information Facebook will automatically group your friends based on whether they live in your city, went to your school or work with you, the lists can also be edited if the automatic system gets it wrong. "Users don't really want to spend a lot of time creating and maintaining friend lists," said Naomi Gleit, the director of product at Facebook who worked on the â€˜Smart Listsâ€™ feature.

Beginning Wednesday, the new â€˜Friends Listâ€™ feature will allow Facebook users to manage list of friends, providing them with the option to share their embarrassing photos or other personals info with a particular person or a group of friends rather than all of their hundreds of friends.

Lists are customizable:- The feature is optional and the lists are customizable. Facebook users can create their own friend groups, based on hobbies, work projects or relatives.

For instance, categorizing people as "close friends" will ensure that you will see every post and photo from pals you care about the most. Updates from people in this category will feature more prominently in your news feed and a user can opt to receive email notifications every time they post something on Facebook, Gleit said.

Contrary to that, those listed as "acquaintances" will feature less prominently on your Facebook page, and you will see only major announcements, such as marriages and new babies, from them.

"You have all sorts of different shades of gray in terms of how you interact with people," said Mike Schroepfer, Vice President of Engineering at Facebook. "We wanted to make sure the product had a richer set of tools to allow people to control that experience."

Smart List option aimed at Google +â€™s Circle feature:- The latest move by Palo Alto, California-based Facebook, with more than 750 million users, seems to be aimed directly at Google+â€™s Circles feature, which lets users place friends into groups. The new privacy tool is partly automated, meaning, using the profile information Facebook will automatically group your friends based on whether they live in your city, went to your school or work with you, the lists can also be edited if the automatic system gets it wrong.

Debuted in June, Google Plus had about 29 million users at the end of July, as estimated by ComScore Inc.

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Ritika Sharma - About Author:
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