

## Does social media interfere too much in citizens' private lives?

Although there are many benefits to social media, I believe it interferes too much in citizens' private lives. I have two main reasons for this opinion.

One reason is to do with privacy. Companies like Amazon and Google collect vast amounts of personal data to improve their services. Although this benefits users by improving their experience, for instance, targeted advertising to recommend goods they might like, this involves using each individual's search history and personal information such as age, sex, and address. If this data were to be hacked, who knows how this information could be used against people? Anyone who has experienced having something stolen from them, I have when my debit card was stolen and used when I was in university, would know how horrible and stressful an experience it can be.

Another reason is addiction. Recently, a Netflix documentary called 'The Social Dilemma' was released, which explores through expert opinions and data how addiction is actually a feature of social media platforms. Social media has definitely enriched people's lives through enabling easier connections with people around the world and many finding ways to be creative using platforms like Instagram. However, the fact that companies such as Facebook purposely add features like aggressive push notifications to keep you engaged longer is clear evidence that social media interferes too much in our daily lives. On top of this interference, SNS platforms using addiction to their advantage is very concerning and immoral.

Therefore, due to these privacy and addiction issues, social media platforms need to re-evaluate how to improve their services without interfering too much in people's lives.

By weknow communication adviser, [Simon\(ENG\)](#)