

Snapchat is a photo-sharing social media site built for mobile phones. It encourages instant or "as it happens" sharing, with photos taken throughout a person's day. This appeals to younger people, and to businesses targeting a younger demographic.



Snaps are meant to be temporary.



Snaps can be saved without your knowledge!

Temporary Images?

Snapchat's USP is that images are "temporary". When a 'snap' is sent to someone, it has a timer on it and the recipient may only view the image for a few seconds.

Snapchats last for 30 days in the app before they are deleted and at least 30 days from the time they are opened on Snaapchat's systems. Snaps added with the 'our story' feature can remain viewable for up to 90 days.

If the receiver screenshots a snap, the sender will receive a notification. However, there are multiple ways to capture a sent image without the sender even knowing.

Who can snap me?

By default, only people in your friends list can, so be careful who you accept as a friend. Additionally, anyone with your username or your phone number can add you on Snapchat. Snapchat will also suggest people you may know based on your "friends".

Snap Map

Snap Map is a feature on snapchat where you can see all your friends' locations. This feature is off by default. You can also add a story using a feature called "'our story", which ties a snap to that location, and anyone viewing the map can click on your location to view the story. If enough people add to this, then it is more visible on the map.

Leaked Photos!

In 2014, a third-party app "Snapsave" was breached and over 200,000 images leaked online. Many of those were of young children under the legal age of consent and therefore also constituted child pornography.

Explicit photo-sharing is common on Snapchat, especially with younger people, as the idea of Snapchat being private, temporary and secure is generally accepted by users - don't fall for this idea.

