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Securing Online Social Networks: Addressing Threats and Implementing Solutions

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Abstract: *Unaware of risks, OSN users expose personal details, inviting privacy violations, identity theft, and sexual harassment. This paper reviews security and privacy risks, especially for children, emphasizing the potential harm in the virtual and real world. Existing solutions for enhanced protection, security, and privacy are summarized. Practical recommendations are provided to improve user security. Future research directions are suggested. Examining OSN Risks: Privacy, Identity Theft, and Harassment. Personal information, such as relationship status, date of birth, school name, email, phone number, and even home address, is willingly shared. This data, in the wrong hands, poses significant harm both online and offline. Particularly concerning is the vulnerability of children. This paper conducts a comprehensive review of the security and privacy risks that jeopardize the well-being of OSN users, with a specific focus on children. Additionally, existing solutions are outlined, offering enhanced protection, security, and privacy. Simple-to-implement recommendations are provided to empower users with improved security and privacy measures while engaging with these platforms. Furthermore, potential avenues for future research are proposed.*

Keywords: online social networks, security risks, privacy violations, identity theft, sexual harassment, personal information, user awareness, children, user well-being, existing solutions, protection, security, privacy, recommendations, future research.

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