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Facebook Logs Every Call and Every Text Users Make and Receive on Their Phones

Facebook users are reporting that the social media giant has been routinely storing details of every mobile phone call they have made and received. Users have also discovered it has been logging every text message sent and received over months and months. As the Cambridge Analytica scandal surrounding the harvesting of personal data, and how it is used and by whom, deepens, people are joining the #deletefacebook movement. When disgruntled users request to permanently delete their accounts, the site suggests: “You may want to download a copy of your info from Facebook.” And it is this the information that has been stored over time that has shocked many. Dylan McKay learned that for the period October 2016 to July 2017, his logs contained “the metadata of every cellular call I’ve ever made, including time and duration” and “metadata about every text message I’ve ever received or sent”. Another, Mat Johnson, said on Twitter: “Oh wow my deleted Facebook Zip file contains info on every single phone cellphone call and text I made for about a year- cool totally not creepy.” The latest development appears to affect only people who have downloaded the Facebook Messenger app on Android. When apps are downloaded, the majority ask permission to get access to the user’s phone contacts. Few realize the extent of what they are signing away. A Facebook spokesman said: “Contact uploading is optional. People are expressly asked if they want to give permission to upload their contacts from their phone – it’s explained right there in the apps when you get started. “People can delete previously uploaded information at any time and can find all the information available to them in their account and activity log from our Download Your Information tool.”