

Employers Snoop Discussion Post

Reading

[Beware Potential Employers are Watching You](#)

[Job Screening With Social Networks](#) (Infographic)

[Can potential employers ask for my Facebook password?](#)

Assignment

Employers checking the backgrounds of current and potential employees is nothing new, but the Internet makes it trivially easy to examine someone's personal life. Whether you agree with this practice or not, it is extremely common (one of the readings put the number at around 40%, another puts it at 91%), and it is likely you will encounter the practice as a potential hire, or as managers making hiring decisions.

The first article was written in 2012 and deals with specific red flags employers may look for. The next reading is a detailed infographic that tries to visualize the extent of the practice.

The last reading speaks to a more invasive practice than just snooping through a candidate's online activity. Some employers have been asking candidates for their Facebook or Twitter passwords in order to see what may lie behind their privacy settings.

Write a discussion board post of approximately 150- to 250-words that answers the following questions:

If you worked for a company hiring new employees, and you were required to check their Facebook or other online activity, what sorts of things would you look for? What would be a red flag for you? What would be a positive sign? Would you decline to hire an otherwise qualified applicant based solely on something in their private online activity? Finally, have you or anyone you know had an experience with an employer examining your online activity? You don't have to talk about it if it makes you uncomfortable, but if you don't mind sharing, let us know.

Additionally, search for another, more recent article that supports or disputes the snooping practices discussed in these articles. Include a link to the article you found in your post, and state your stance on the subject of this newer article with your summary of thoughts.

Make sure you also respond to at least one of your peers' posts to keep the conversation about this complex issue going.