



NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION THREAT INTELLIGENCE CONSORTIUM NEW YORK STATE INTELLIGENCE CENTER

21 February 2020
Product No. 2020-02-031
NTIC SIN No. 2.5 | HSEC SIN No. 1

Doxing Mitigation Guide

The National Capital Region Threat Intelligence Consortium Cyber Center and the New York State Intelligence Center Cyber Analysis Unit have compiled the following resource to assist individuals in removing their personal information from public records websites to reduce the risk of doxing.

Doxing (from “*dox*,” short for “documents”) is the act of compiling and publishing another individual’s personally identifiable information (PII) online for the purposes of harassment, humiliation, or intimidation. As the name suggests, threat actors conduct doxing by gathering “documents” or information about a target from a variety of online data sources. These sources can include social media profiles identifying a target’s family members, interests, and activity patterns; data breaches containing a target’s email address or revealing services they purchase and/or use; online newspaper archives containing obituaries, engagement announcements, or notices of political involvement or military service; or tax records databases revealing names, addresses, phone numbers, or property details. Threat actors use information compiled from these data sources to craft invasive profiles of targets. They then publish the information in doxing campaigns, usually done to expose identities, enact revenge, promote stalking, enable identity theft, or encourage others to perpetrate violent or malicious activity against targets or their families. Threat actors have even used doxing campaigns to spoof emergency situations that prompt a tactical law enforcement response directed at an intended target, a practice known as “swatting.”

In recent years, threat actors have used **public records websites** as convenient resources for gathering personal information about their targets. These websites periodically scrape social media networks, archived websites, public records databases, and other sources of potentially useful data points and present their findings online, often at no cost, in simple and concise reports. Information captured by these websites may include names, birthdates, current and/or previous addresses, names of relatives and associates, social media profile photographs, archived social media information, work locations, job titles, salaries, real estate records, telephone numbers, and more. Though these websites can serve legitimate purposes such as aiding law enforcement or employers in background investigations, they are also attractive to threat actors seeking to gather information about targets to use in doxing campaigns or other nefarious activity.

There are proactive steps individuals can take to remove their personal information from public records websites. Attached is a reference guide with instructions for completing this process on some of the most common public records websites. *The National Capital Region Threat Intelligence Consortium Cyber Center and the New York State Intelligence Center Cyber Analysis Unit encourage individuals, particularly those in government, law enforcement, or other sensitive positions, to use this guide to limit the online exposure of their personal information and to reduce the risk of being impacted by a doxing campaign.*

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The following pages include instructions for removing personal information from some of the most common public records websites (current as of February 2020).

*We encourage users of this guide to create a new email address, unaffiliated with any previous accounts or services, dedicated expressly for use in completing opt-out processes on websites that require verification or confirmation via email. Additionally, if possible, we advise using a temporary phone number (such as those available through prepaid phone services) for use in completing opt-out processes on websites that require verification or confirmation via telephone or text message.

**Please note that, as the below websites may frequently re-index personal information from other publicly available data sources, it may become necessary to revisit this guide periodically in the event that further or repeat removal of personal information is required. In addition, as this guide is not exhaustive of every public records website available currently or in the future, we encourage individuals to perform periodic Internet searches for their names or personal details and follow procedures to ensure the removal of their records from any additional data sources identified.

| Website | Opt-Out Link | Instructions |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| addresses.com | http://www.addresses.com/optout.php | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Navigate to addresses.com and search for your profile record 2. Navigate to opt-out link 3. Complete opt-out form using information as it appears in the record you would like removed 4. Provide an email address 5. Click "Remove Me" |
| advancedbackgroundchecks.com | https://www.advancedbackgroundchecks.com/manage/ | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Navigate to opt-out link 2. Click agreement box; select "I'm not a robot" 3. Click "Begin Removal Process" 4. Enter your information and click "Search" 5. Find your profile and click "See Full Info" 6. Click "Remove my record" |
| archives.com | http://www.archives.com/?act=Optout | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Navigate to opt-out link 2. Fill out opt-out request form 3. Click "Submit" |
| beenverified.com | https://www.beenverified.com/f/optout/search | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Navigate to opt-out link 2. Enter your name and state of residence; click "Search" 3. Click on your profile record 4. Enter email address 5. Select "I'm not a robot" 6. Click "Send Verification Email" |

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| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Check email (note: email may go to your inbox's "junk" folder) 8. Click "Verify Opt-Out →" in confirmation email |
| checkthem.com | https://www.checkthem.com/optout/ | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Navigate to opt-out link 2. Enter your name; click "Search Now!" 3. Click "Choose" next to your profile record 4. Enter your email address; select "I'm not a robot"; answer security questions; click "Send Verification Email" 5. Check email; navigate to provided link to confirm opt-out |
| cyberbackgroundchecks.com | https://www.cyberbackgroundchecks.com/removal | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Navigate to opt-out link 2. Agree to terms and conditions; select "I'm not a robot" 3. Click "Start Removal Process" 4. Enter your name and click "Search" 5. Click "View Details" under your profile 6. Click "Remove My Record" |
| dobsearch.com | https://www.dobsearch.com/people-finder/search-name.php | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Navigate to opt-out link 2. Enter your name 3. If you identify your profile record among the search results, scroll to the bottom of the list and click "Manage My Listings" on the right side of the page 4. Type "I AGREE" in the box to confirm acceptance of terms 5. Click "Continue" 6. Mark your profile record by placing a checkmark in the box to the left of your name 7. Click "Continue" 8. Enter email address and phone number 9. Click "Submit"; you will receive a text message with a verification code 10. Enter text message verification code and click "Continue" to complete |
| familytreenow.com | https://www.familytreenow.com/optout | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Navigate to opt-out link 2. Select "I'm not a robot" 3. Click "Begin Opt Out Procedure" 4. Enter your name and state of residency 5. Find your profile record 6. Click "Opt Out" |
| fastbackgroundcheck.com | https://www.fastbackgroundcheck.com/removal | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Navigate to opt-out link |

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| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Check verification box 3. Select “I’m not a robot” 4. Click “Begin Removal Process” 5. Enter your name 6. Click on your profile record 7. Click “Remove My Record” |
| fastpeoplesearch.com | https://www.fastpeoplesearch.com/removal | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Navigate to opt-out link 2. Check verification box 3. Select “I’m not a robot” 4. Click “Begin Removal Process” 5. Enter your name 6. Click on your profile record 7. Click “Remove My Record” |
| instantcheckmate.com | https://www.instantcheckmate.com/optout/ | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Navigate to opt-out link 2. Enter your name 3. Click “Remove This Record” 4. Enter your email address 5. Select “I’m not a robot” 6. Click “Send Confirmation Email” 7. Click “Confirm opt-out” in email to complete |
| intelius.com | https://www.intelius.com/optout | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Navigate to opt-out link 2. Enter your name; click “Search” 3. Click “Select and Continue” next to your profile record 4. Enter your email address; select “I’m not a robot”; click “Continue” |
| mylife.com | None | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Navigate to mylife.com and search for your profile record 2. Copy profile URL 3. Send email to privacy@mylife.com requesting removal of your profile record; include URL of your record 4. You should receive an email confirmation of profile takedown within a week |
| peekyou.com | http://www.peekyou.com/about/contact/optout/ | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Navigate to peekyou.com and search for your profile record 2. Navigate to opt-out link 3. Copy the unique ID from the URL of your profile record (the opt-out link contains guidance on identifying a profile’s unique ID) |



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| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Fill out the opt-out form; paste in unique ID from your profile 5. Select "I'm not a robot"; confirm terms of service 6. Click "Submit" 7. Confirm opt-out using link provided in email |
| peoplefinders.com | https://www.peoplefinders.com/opt-out | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Navigate to peoplefinders.com and search for your profile record 2. Click on your profile record 3. Copy URL of your profile record 4. Navigate to opt-out link; paste URL from profile record into opt-out form 5. Enter email 6. Select "I'm not a robot" 7. Click "Send Request" 8. Confirm opt-out using link provided in email |
| peoplelooker.com | https://www.peoplelooker.com/f/optout/search | See instructions for beenverified.com |
| peoplelookup.com | https://www.peoplelookup.com/privacy-policy#updating-or-removing-your-information | See instructions for beenverified.com |
| peoplesmart.com | None | See instructions for beenverified.com |
| privateeye.com | https://www.privateeye.com/static/view/optout/ | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Navigate to opt-out link 2. Enter your name 3. Click "Opt Out" 4. See instructions for peoplefinders.com to continue process |
| premium.whitepages.com | https://support.whitepages.com/hc/en-us/requests/new | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Navigate to premium.whitepages.com and search for your profile record 2. Find your profile record; click the blue box that says "View Full Report" 3. Copy the website URL 4. Navigate to the opt-out link 5. Under "Please choose your issue below"; select "I need to edit or remove a listing" 6. Enter your email address; paste website URL; enter full name, address city and state, and phone number as they appear in the listing |

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| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Under Subject, enter “Removal”; under Description, enter “Please remove my personal information and all data associated with it from your website” 8. Select “I’m not a robot” 9. Click “Submit” |
| radaris.com | None | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Navigate to radaris.com 2. Search for your profile record 3. If the option is available*, click “Full Profile” next to your profile record (*if this option is not available, it may not be possible to remove your information from the Radaris website as the company may be sourcing data from other public records websites) 4. Click on dropdown arrow next to “Background Check & Contact Info” and click “Control Info” 5. Click the “Control Info” button 6. Create an account and login 7. Confirm your name and enter your phone number; click “Send code” 8. Enter the verification code received in the text message, click “Submit” 9. Click “View Profile” 10. In the top right corner of the webpage, click the  icon, then click “Control Information,” then click “Delete specific records” 11. Select the checkbox next to up to 6 records you wish to remove, then click “Remove selected record(s)” 12. Repeat process from step 10 until all desired records have been removed, then click “Back to <i>name</i>’s page” 13. In the top right corner of the webpage, click the  icon, then click “Control Information,” then click “Make profile private” |
| rehold.com | None | See instructions for veripages.com |
| searchpeoplefree.com | https://www.searchpeoplefree.com/opt-out | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Navigate to the opt-out link 2. Agree to terms of service and select “I’m not a robot” 3. Click “Begin” |

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| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Search for your profile record; click on “Details” to view your record detail 5. At the bottom of the record detail page click “Remove this Record” |
| spokeo.com | http://www.spokeo.com/optout | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Navigate to spokeo.com and search for your profile record 2. Copy website URL 3. Navigate to the opt-out link; paste URL into the opt-out form; provide an email address; select “I’m not a robot”; click “Remove this listing” 4. Confirm opt-out using link provided in email |
| spydialer.com | https://spydialer.com/Consumers/ | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Navigate to spydialer.com and search for your associated phone number, name, address, or email 2. Navigate to the opt-out link; click “Start” 3. Choose your state of residence; select “I’m not a robot”; click “Continue” 4. Fill in the information you would like removed from the website 5. Click “Confirm Request”; on the next page; click “Opt-Out My Info” to complete the process |
| truepeoplesearch.com | https://www.truepeoplesearch.com/removal | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Navigate to the opt-out link 2. Agree to terms of service and select “I’m not a robot” 3. Click “Begin removal” 4. Search for your profile record; click “View all details” 5. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click “Remove this record” |
| truthfinder.com | https://www.truthfinder.com/opt-out/ | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Navigate to the opt-out link 2. Search for your profile record 3. Click “Remove this record” 4. Provide your email address; select “I’m not a robot;” click “Send confirmation email” 5. Check email inbox for confirmation email and click “Confirm opt-out” to complete the process |
| usa-people-search.com | https://www.usa-people-search.com/manage/ | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Navigate to the opt-out link 2. Search for your profile record 3. Click “That’s the one” 4. Check the two boxes to confirm the process and the terms of service; select “I’m not a robot”; click “Continue” |

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| ussearch.com | None | See instructions for intelius.com |
| veripages.com | None | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Navigate to veripages.com; search for your profile record 2. Copy website URL 3. Send email to support@veripages.com requesting removal of your profile record; include URL of your record |
| voterrecords.com | None | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Navigate to voterrecords.com; search for your profile record 2. Click “View Details” next to your name in the search results to go to the detailed record page 3. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click “Record Opt-Out” 4. Enter your name and email address; agree to the terms of the request; select “I’m not a robot” 5. Check email inbox for verification email to confirm request (note: if you do not receive a verification email, your record was successfully processed without additional verification needed) |
| whitepages.com | https://whitepages.com/suppression_requests | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Navigate to whitepages.com and search for your profile record 2. Click “View Free Details” 3. Copy the website URL 4. Navigate to the opt-out link; paste URL into the opt-out form; click “Opt-Out” 5. Click “remove me;” provide a reason for opt-out request 6. Provide a telephone number to receive a verification phone call 7. Verify PIN code via telephone to complete opt-out process |
| xlek.com | https://www.xlek.com/optout.php | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Navigate to xlek.com and search for your profile record. If found, navigate to opt-out link 2. Enter your name and email address 3. Select “I’m not a robot” 4. Click “Proceed” |
| yellowbook.com | None | See instructions for beenverified.com |
| zabasearch.com | https://www.zabasearch.com/block_records/ | See instructions for intelius.com |

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