

Why does Spotify want to see your photos?

Be honest... the last time you downloaded an app or signed up for a website, did you read the Terms and Conditions before you clicked 'Accept'? You know, the bit where it says what information you're giving the service permission to access, like your photos or location.

Most people just click 'Accept' or tick the Terms and Conditions box without really reading this stuff, or thinking about what it means.

But lots of us are giving services like Spotify, Twitter, Facebook and Nike + permission to access our personal information – like our photos, our contacts, the music we listen to, the places we go. Some apps even monitor whether you're walking or running, and track your location using GPS software.

Why do they want your data? Critics are concerned that the services could make money by selling information about you to other companies. However, when Spotify recently came under fire for updating its Privacy Policy to give it more access to users' data, boss Daniel Ek says that access to this information will help them "deliver the best possible experience to users".

To reassure people, Spotify posted a blog explaining the changes saying:

"We will always ask for individual permission or clearly inform you of the ability to opt out from sharing location, photos, voice and contacts."

When you download an app or sign up on a website, it's really important that you understand what you're giving the service permission to see and do with your personal stuff. Read the Terms and Conditions carefully. If it looks complicated, don't just ignore it, ask an adult to read it with you. It's important to understand who your personal information is being shared with, because it may lead to you receiving spam messages and other unwanted communications.

For further advice on staying secure online, visit

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/11_13/Need-advice/Staying-secure-online/