

LibraryCrunch

Service for the Next Generation Library - A Library 2.0 Perspective by Michael Casey

MySpace and Data Portability

by MICHAEL CASEY on MAY 8, 2008

This is rather exciting news via [TechCrunch](#).

MySpace is announcing a broad ranging embrace of data portability standards today, along with data sharing partnerships with Yahoo, Ebay, Twitter and their own Photobucket subsidiary. The new project is being called MySpace "Data Availability" and is an example, MySpace says, of their dedication to playing nice with the rest of the Internet...

...But with Data Availability, partners will be able to access MySpace user data, combine it with their own, and present it on their sites outside of the normal widget framework. Friends lists can be synchronized, for example. Or Twitter may use the data to recommend other Twitter users who are your MySpace friends.

The data sharing is dynamic, meaning it is updated constantly. And that also means user permission is not a one time thing. At any time a user can change or revoke the rights of a third party to access the data. Those third parties are "being held to strict terms of service," says MySpace, which prohibits them from storing the data or using it once permissions are revoked.

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Wilfred Drew 05.08.08 at 3:53 pm 1

Exciting no. Disturbing, yes! Are these connections going to be automatic? Are they going to be opt out instead of opt in? What about privacy issues? This raises more questions for me than it does raise expectations of things I would want.

Laura Savastinuk 05.10.08 at 2:38 pm 2

Handled well this could be very convenient for users of several different social networks. While I don't personally use MySpace, my friends lists vary across different social networks I do use because I haven't taken the time to go through all my lists to make them consistent. Maybe everyone wouldn't want that consistency for various reasons, but for those who do... As long as they ask before sharing data I think many would welcome an easy way to clean up their lists.

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