

# Transcription 8

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J: I guess to start it off, how long have information technologies, like say computers or cell phones been important in your life?

I: Since... 8<sup>th</sup> grade I got a cell phone. Actually I have a better answer. In 6<sup>th</sup> grade, I went to a K though 8 private school, and in 6<sup>th</sup> grade every middle schooler had to have a laptop, and we used it in every class.

J: What did you use them for?

I: I don't know, it was stupid. They would be like, "now we're going to do a writing assignment." And instead of writing it on paper we'd type it on our laptop.

J: So as a younger kid it didn't seem particularly important or fun or anything?

I: I mean it was cool to have your own laptop, but we got made fun of by like all of the other schools in the area, because they thought we were rich. That wasn't fun.

J: Did your family have a computer at home growing up?

I: I had that laptop, and then in high school we had two computers, upstairs and downstairs, and then I got a laptop this last summer for college.

J: So you've had computers around throughout much of your life?

I: Yeah.

J: Would you say they've been important in your daily life?

I: Yeah, I've always used computers, I don't like handwriting.

J: Would you consider yourself a computer savvy person?

I: I should be because I've had lessons forever. I'm not that good.

J: What is a computer lesson, exactly?

I: I took—no we took computer classes up until 6<sup>th</sup> grade until we got laptops, and then I took a computer class in high school too, where we learned Excel and stuff... but I never got good. I can do like—I'm better than my parents, I can show them how to do it.

J: So relative to other kids your age, how would you rate yourself?

I: I'm average.

J: You mentioned you got a cell phone in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, was that normal or a big deal?

I: By that time almost everyone had one.

J: So you were a little late getting one?

I: Yeah I was made I didn't have one yet.

J: Did it mean more to you then? Or was it an "it's about time" thing?

I: I don't remember really, but I think it was it's about time. Ever since then I've always had one.

J: Okay, so moving on, how did you get into the whole Facebook thing?

I: I didn't get a Facebook until I knew I was going to Illinois and then—no I didn't get one until I knew what dorm I was in because I wanted to look up the groups, cause I'm in [dorm name] and we got a pamphlet saying that [dorm name] started a group, if you wanted to check it out.

J: So housing sent you a pamphlet inviting you into the Facebook group?

I: Yeah, they started a [dorm name] orientation group.

J: Did you have a friend who got you into it?

I: I was one of the last ones to get into it, everyone had one and I didn't want one until college because originally it was a college thing.

J: So you joined when it was open to anyone to join?

I: I don't know, I think by that time it was everybody.

J: If it was just in this past year it would have been global.

I: It was last August

J: Yeah, then it would have been globally open. Did you have any other social networking stuff before that? Like MySpace?

I: I did MySpace, I didn't really like it. I didn't check it very often. I had it for like a year before I got Facebook. I still have MySpace, but I forgot the password, so it's frozen in time, and I can't change anything.

J: You think that'll be a problem later?

I: Maybe I don't know. I wonder if they delete them. Maybe they delete them if you don't go on for a while. Like over like a year don't you think they'd probably delete it?

J: I don't know. I kind of doubt it actually. Unless you specifically ask for it.

I: Oh, that's creepy.

J: So you didn't like it as much?

I: MySpace?

J: Yeah, how does it compare?

I: Well it had a bunch of viruses, it had people send you messages, but it wasn't them sending it, it was like "You should buy this cell phone" was the message, so you knew it wasn't them so all of the messages you were getting were just like people who got viruses from their MySpace. And you could only put like 5 pictures—I mean you could put a lot, but most people would only put 5 or 10. There just really wasn't much to see.

J: Did you feel like it was a coming of age thing? MySpace for high school, Facebook for college?

I: Maybe, that does make sense, but I don't know, because now high schoolers just have Facebook. Like everyone from my high school is friending me, like sophomores, juniors, they all have Facebook. So I think it might have been an original thing and then when Facebook came out everyone realized it was better.

J: Who do you think is on MySpace now?

I: Middle schoolers.

J: Do you remember any major differences when you first joined Facebook and now?

I: I mean it turned more into... I feel like when I originally joined it was just your wall and pictures and your newsfeed and now you can put like slide shows into it, and they have all those extra applications, like I don't know, I don't usually have them, but like Jet Man, I know they have an Oregon Trail one, all these games, Bumper Stickers, like none of that was there when I started.

J: SO you feel like it's expanded?

I: Yeah, yeah, or maybe I just didn't know when I started that those things existed.

J: Alright, so I know we've already touched on this, but on an everyday basis how do you feel Facebook comes into your everyday life?

I: I just... I feel like it's as important as email, it became—it used to be people just checked their email and now people check their Facebook then their email. Or I just spent like an hour staring at Facebook instead of doing homework, using it as a time-waster or a way to get out of your homework. People use it as another form of like—you either call someone, or if you're too scared to call em you text em and if you're too scared to text them then you Facebook message them.

J: Is it always too scared?

I: Maybe not too scared, just like different levels of communication. Or like inbox sometimes, if you don't want to email someone, because that's too formal.

J: How do you see differences between Facebook, AIM, and email?

I: At home, people stopped doing AIM like sophomore year, but like here—I'm from [west coast city] so like there no one did it, but like here everyone I know has one.

J: I should have said instant messaging, sometimes I accidentally refer to all instant messaging as AIM. But back to the original communication question.

I: Well, you'd inbox someone something... well you know this because you have one. Let me think of examples. So you might write on someone's wall if you're gonna tell them happy birthday, or if you're like "Let's hang out soon" or if you want to make a joke about something that happened over the weekend. It's basically all you do. Or if you're like "How are you?" but that rarely ever happens. You inbox someone if you have to tell them a big story and you don't usually talk to them on the phone. Or if you have a question that you're gonna put... like my friends use inboxing like IM almost, like we have a 6 person inbox and we just comment about how our breaks are going the whole time. What else is there?

J: Well you've mentioned the wall and messaging. And then I had mentioned IM and email.

I: Instant messaging I'm not really sure why people still do it... just kind of like texting but a faster reaction.

J: Do you say things with Status at all?

I: Yeah, I don't do like [person's name] is doing homework because that's boring and people don't care. But I'll put like... we went Saki bombing with my sorority, I guess I put things up there that I think are like fun. Like we went Saki bombing, so I put [person's name] is Saki bombing, because who else is gonna be Saki bombing, you know? Some people put everything up there.

J: Do you know anyone who updates from their cell phone?

I: I don't know, sometimes it says it, it has the little icon next to it.

J: Okay, so you've talked about some of the communication within Facebook then. Are there times you'd prefer using Facebook to talk to someone instead of email?

I: Well you just don't really email your friends in general. Is that what you mean?

J: Well interpret it as you will.

I: So when you would use Facebook instead of phone or email?

J: Sure.

I: You wouldn't email any of your friends ever really, so you would inbox them, or call them. You wouldn't text someone, like let's hang out again. You'd use Facebook way more often than other things, there are a lot more things to use on Facebook.

J: Alright, cool. So going back to the everyday life thing. You mentioned you sometimes do Facebook instead of doing homework. How much time do you think you spend on it in a day?

I: Well some days I'll only check it twice, for like 3 minutes. But then some days like—today I had an hour break between classes that I spent on Facebook, and then I spent probably a half hour before I did my homework. At the most it would be like an hour and a half or two hours, and the least would be like 5 minutes.

J: Do you feel out of touch when you don't have a chance to jump on Facebook?

I: Or I'll get excited because I might have more notifications. Like if I don't check all day, I'll have them built up, anticipation.

J: Do you feel like there's a community on Facebook? Are there a bunch of communities on Facebook? How do you see community and Facebook?

I: I don't know if this is a community – but there are all of the people at home that I look at at one time, so I'll either go on to check out what all of my friends from home are doing at one time—like today I clicked through people from home for like a really long time. But other times it's like me and my friends pictures are tagging and commenting, people from here, people from home. It's all like one group.

J: So some of the stuff that gets popular on Facebook-

I: Like bumper stickers?

J: Yeah sure, does that come from a big community or more from individuals?

I: I think it starts from individual people. At first I saw them and I wondered why but now everyone has bumper stickers.

J: Okay. So do you have a routine with Facebook at all? Get coffee, get Facebook?

I: So I sometimes wake up 20 minutes before class, which is a lot for me, so if I have like 10 extra minutes—after I'm done, I eat my cereal and check my Facebook.

We go out creeping on Facebook- I don't know if you're heard that, but it's like I Facebook creep for an hour-

J: Well I think my generation calls it stalking, but now I hear it called creeping. What is the act of creeping?

I: Creeping means stalking. It's like a better word for stalking. Well major creeping, is when you're like – they're like "Oh I did this last weekend" and you're like "yeah I crept I saw your pictures already." Or like, "Oh I heard you had a new girl friend" and you're like "Yeah I know, it was on your newsfeed." It's like knowing creeping things that you shouldn't know, but you do because it's on Facebook.

J: That kind of opens up a bigger question. What do you generally learn from Facebook?

I: If I didn't have Facebook I'd have no clue about what people from home are doing, so like I can basically like, when we come home from breaks and I'll like know because I've seen pictures or like – I know what all of their friends look like. I feel like it's making it okay to be creepy.

J: How does that work?

I: Cause it's like, you'll like know if someone is in a relationship, what their school life is like, everything, and you might not even be good friends with them?

J: Is that expected?

I: It's just known that people creep on Facebook. Like no one has a Facebook and doesn't look at people. Actually I have like two friends that just don't care and they don't really go on.

J: Is it kind of like the news, comparable to reading the newspaper?

I: I don't know, no.

J: What's your take on the newsfeed then?

I: The newsfeed... I think it's creepy. I don't think they should have people's—that you can see what they wrote on people's walls.

J: How come?

I: I don't know it's just creepy. Or you can click on wall-to-wall and see what they've been talking about like the entire school year. It's like everything they write you know people are going to look at. People can see things.

J: So when you're posting on their wall you know it's going to be public?

I: Yeah. No, the newsfeed, basically, I feel like—if you just went on you wouldn't know what to click on with the other people. You'd just have your own profile and be stuck at your own profile and wouldn't know where to go unless you like think of "Oh I want to go look at this person" but the newsfeed you can see people put up pictures and then you look at all of their pictures.

J: Did you join before the newsfeed?

I: No

J: Do you ever learn about things like groups or clubs?

I: Groups of clubs on campus?

J: Sure, and off campus too.

I: My sorority, they advertise on there. We had like a jean sale, and they made an "Attending the Jeans sale group." One of my friends is in an Improv group, like they made a profile for the group.

J: What group?

I: Spicy...umb...

J: Spicy Clamato

I: Yeah! I just signed upon quad day.

J: What about other types of groups and membership? What other groups do you belong to and what do they tell you about other people?

I: Oh do you mean the groups? I was thinking about groups on campus for a second. Yeah right, like you can join the basic ones, like I'm in the [dorm name] group, and then I'm in the [sorority name] group and that means I'm a part of—but people are making really weird ones now. Like this guy, who's friends with a bunch of my friends. They made one like [person's name] is a shit show and people joined it and it like talked about the stupid things he did, but it's like a joke because he's part of it. They're just making really weird ones, like about specific people. They're just getting more specific.

J: SO you've seen more specific ones the longer you've been around?

I: Yeah.

J: You already mentioned events, have you ever made an event?

I: No, I don't know how to do it. I don't have events anyway.

J: Do you think you could figure it out if you ever needed to?

I: Yeah probably.

J: Who do you most often keep up with on Facebook?

I: Like talk to? Girls from home, and then my best friends from here. We all tag each other and stuff in pictures. Basically the only people who write on my wall are my two best friends from home, or like, my friends from here, something funny happened they want to make fun of me, and then like random people you see out one night, they might make a funny comment the next day. Like on my wall at least.

J: Do you use any of the applications?

I: I have bumper sticker—which I don't really like that much—and then

J: How come you use it then?

I: People just tag you, people just put—like the reason I got into it is that people can give you just one bumper sticker and if you say okay you get every single one after that. So and then what else—I have an Illini Football one, but I think I canceled that though, which would say when the next football game was, and what the score of the last one was. I have, the one where your friends can buy you a drink.

J: Do you learn from applications or are they more for a different function?

I: Well obviously if your friends give you a bunch of bumper stickers, then they're thinking about you.

J: Is there anything that you ignore specifically?

I: What do you mean? Like certain people when they friend you, you can click ignore?

J: Yeah that could be an example.

I: Groups I ignore and stuff too—if it's a group that doesn't have anything to do with me, like if it's some sports player that I don't know I'm not gonna join the group.

J: Does the sender or inviter have anything to do with it?

I: Well yeah, sometimes if it's like a really random—if someone breaks their phone and they send it to all of their friends and you don't really even know them and you've just met them once and they don't have your number anyways. You wouldn't like join the group and write your number on the group.

J: When you look on another person's profile do you ignore anything there?

I: You don't really read like what books they like, what TV shows, you don't really read their quotes, people for some reason never look at albums, unless they get tagged in them, or if they're in your newsfeed you'll look at it, but if I just go to a random person's profile I won't scroll down, I'll just look at their tagged pictures or the pictures they tagged themselves in. But I wouldn't usually go directly to all of their albums.

J: So you'd click the link that says pictures of so and so?

I: Yeah

J: Do you ever watch videos?

I: Yeah I don't really watch videos. I did today actually. They've been up on my best friend's profile for months and then finally I was like "oh I should watch those" but I don't normally watch them.

J: When you're going around on Facebook do you normally log on with an intention, like say to find someone's phone number? Or is it more random?

I: No, you just log on to see if you have any like—notifications, or inboxes or whatever. But every once in a while I'll send someone an inbox and I want to see what they sent back I'll check, or my friends they might tag me in a picture I'll check.

J: Do you ever meet someone in class and then want to go look them up?

I: No, I usually forget. I think I've done that like twice.

J: Does it ever seem like Facebook ever acts on its own?



I: Like does it mess up?

J: Yeah, or like the newsfeed or little pictures—just something that you didn't expect.

I: Well I rarely ever—I don't usually think when I write on someone's wall like—I usually think people who go to the profile can see what I wrote on the wall, but I don't usually think it's going to be on someone's newsfeed. That's weird.

Or Facebook messes up with two things, bumper stickers, sometimes people send you bumper stickers but it won't let you see them or it will delete them from your profile. Or like once, someone tagged me from 14 pictures or something and then I went to see them and there were only like 8, and I went back and it said I was only tagged in 8 and the next day it said I was tagged in 12.

J: Well like the little thumbnail pictures at the bottom of your profile picture – do those usually seem random or no?

I: I don't know, sometimes you'll look and you'll think it's funny that those two people showed up. Or sometimes 4 girls from my house will show up and I'll be like "that's weird" 4 out of the 6 people are all in one group, but then sometimes it's the most random people and then you look at them because you haven't seen them in forever.

J: Okay I skipped a question. How does Facebook come into everyday conversation?

I: Well, every single picture someone takes, they'll be like "Oh put that up" or "Don't put that up" or people will be like "oh new Facebook picture" –stupid stuff. I think it's really stupid because like in high school I liked to take pictures and put everything in albums and now I don't do that because I have Facebook.

J: I think you already mentioned, it's a common thing

I: Yeah you'll be like I knew that already and they'll be like how and you'll be like Facebook.

J: And the focus is not actually on Facebook itself but—

I: What you saw on there.

J: Ever created any groups or anything like that?

I: Nope.

J: No applications?

I: No, [laughs] People create those applications?

J: Yeah

I: thought those were Facebook.

J: Only a few of them are put out by Facebook, that's why you see ones like Hot or Not or Amazon.

I: Weird, like how you can buy a present for a dollar?

J: Well yes, but that was actually Facebook. They demo'd that before they opened it up as a platform. That was a way of testing how well it could work. There are actually free gifts too.

I: Yeah I've done that before. That would be the dumbest dollar ever spent then. For an online picture?

J: Why is it dumb to spend the dollar online?

I: Cause it's not anything. It's like clipart for a dollar.

J: There's nothing physical about it?

I: Yeah.

J: Who do you think—how do groups and people get popular on Facebook?

I: How do people get popular?

J: Sure, why would a person have a lot of friends on Facebook, and then also why would a group do really well?

I: A group would do really well if it's a group people like because then it just spreads, because one person can send it to all of their friends and that's all they can do, you know? I don't know what a good group would be. People who have more friends are probably weird and just friend everyone. You get friend requests from people you don't know, or barely know, or met once.

J: What does it take to make a friend request and be okay?

I: For me you at least have to have met more than once, maybe if you met twice. Or like a good friend of a friend. You're either in a class and you met out more than like once, or it's your good friend friend's from home, I've done that before.

J: It would be unusual thing to do would be to friend someone who you haven't met in person?

I: Yeah.

J: Do you know anyone that does that?

I: That friends people that they don't know? I don't think so.

J: You've mentioned the applications you use. Have you ever run into a person's page that has a ton of applications?

I: Yeah, it's so annoying. I think it's really weird. Maybe it's just me but it really bugs me. Where you have to scroll down—like some people's you have to scroll down for like 5 minutes, until you get to their wall, because they have like fun wall and all of these things on the side.

J: What types of people have you noticed that do that?

I: I think it depends. Like the two people I can think of are really different. Like one is this really popular guy from home and so I thought it was really weird he had all of that stuff and he's really cool and I really like him. And then there's this girl who's really like talkative and people kind of get annoyed with her sometimes and she's like really talkative and really outgoing and whenever we're out she'll say hi to everyone and she has like every application and tries to get you to join all of the applications. So they're like two totally different people but those are the two I can think of.

J: So you're not surprised by her personality and doing that, but you are surprised by him.

I: Yeah but I'm saying I think it could be anyone.

J: I think I'm just about out of questions, you've guessed a lot before I asked. Did you have any other stories to tell or anything? On the whole you think Facebook is a good thing?

I: I'm a fan of it, I just wish there wasn't so many like—it would be cool if all it was was albums... albums, pictures, and then your wall and inbox, I think that would be like perfect.

J: So it would be better if there were like fewer things on there.

I: Yeah and the newsfeed is creepy.

J: Well you mentioned before how you wouldn't know how to navigate without the newsfeed.

I: Well I don't think it would be as creepy of a thing, because you'd just look at your friends and you wouldn't be really creepy and know when your friends broke up.

J: Okay, cool, that's a wrap.