



How to (Intelligently) Delete 1000 Facebook Friends in an Afternoon

SARA ARENSON
HAX (OCT 16-18, 2020)

The Problem

- ▶ Indiscriminate friending
 - ▶ Accepting friend requests from people I don't know, who often live far away
 - ▶ Using Facebook's "People You May Know" feature to send new friend requests
- ▶ Result: About 2300 "friends", most actually strangers
- ▶ Why was this an issue?
 - ▶ Newsfeed was cluttered with posts from strangers
 - ▶ Actual friends were not engaging with my posts very much – was the Facebook algorithm even showing them?
- ▶ Result: Facebook was not satisfying my social needs

The Problem

- ▶ Goal:
 - ▶ Delete many Facebook friends (over 1000, almost 2000 in the end)
 - ▶ Delete friends *intelligently* (not a purge!)
 - ▶ In order to preserve friends I do want to keep – otherwise I'd have to re-friend hundreds of people
 - ▶ Possible criteria for choosing who to delete:
 - ▶ Engagement – delete those with the fewest likes, comments, shares, and private messages
 - ▶ Hometown – delete everyone not in my hometown
 - ▶ Name recognition – avoid deleting people with names that are familiar

Finding a Solution

1) Manual deletion

- ▶ Using Facebook interface
- ▶ Manually scrolling through friends list
- ▶ Looking at individual profiles then deciding whether or not to delete the person
 - ▶ Do they live in my hometown?
 - ▶ Check private messages – are there any between us?
 - ▶ **Check for likes (reactions) and comments – impossible**
- ▶ Okay for people with a small friends list, e.g. 300-500 people
- ▶ In practice I could only delete 10-20 people per day
- ▶ Hard to find friends to delete - Facebook won't let you view a sorted friends list, so eventually you end up scrolling and scrolling
- ▶ Using this method it could take *months* to get one's friends list under control

Finding a Solution

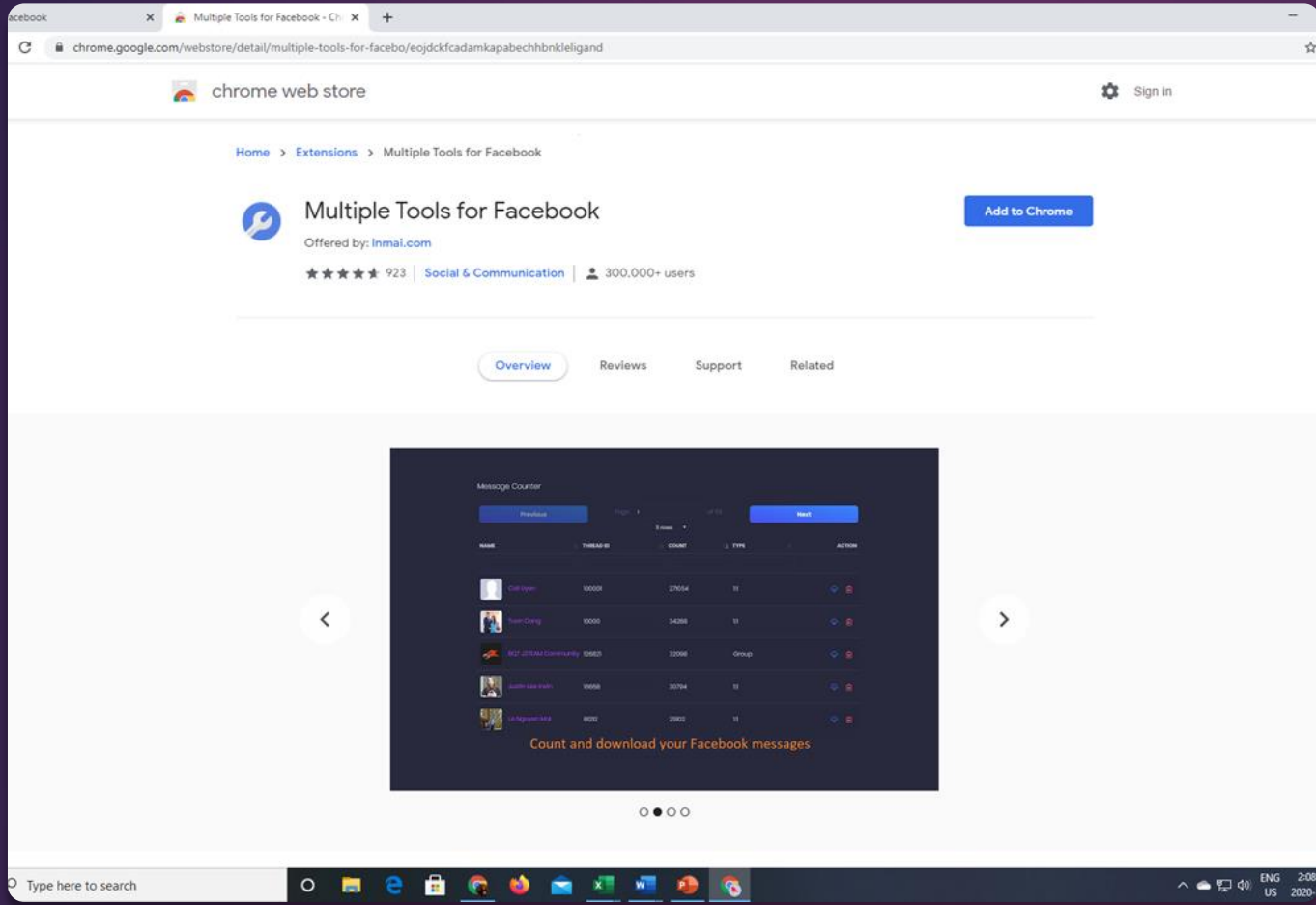
2) Facebook apps

- ▶ Apps that run on the Facebook platform, using the Facebook API (developer tools)
- ▶ Graph API is used to navigate Facebook's social graph (users, pages, photos, links, etc., and the relationships between them)
- ▶ Graph API has no methods for programmatically unfriending people
 - ▶ "It is not possible through the API. Facebook is like the mafia - you can get in, but there's no way out." (<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/8087714/unfriending-someone-through-the-facebook-api>)
- ▶ Conclusion: There are no Facebook apps that can unfriend people.

Finding a Solution

3) Browser extensions

- ▶ Piece of software that alters the way your browser organizes, presents or interacts with information on the Web
- ▶ Simulates how you might interact with a website, but does it in an automated fashion that lets it add additional functionality on top
- ▶ Can search for browser extensions on web stores, e.g. for Chrome: <https://chrome.google.com/webstore/category/extensions>
- ▶ Several extensions let you mass delete friends unintelligently (e.g. mass removal)
- ▶ After trying a few options, I found **Multiple Tools for Facebook**



Multiple Tools for Facebook

Presenter has no financial ties to this extension.

FB MULTI-TOOLS

EXTENSION DASHBOARD

PROFILE DASHBOARD

TOOLS

FRIEND REQUESTS

FRIENDS REMOVER

GROUPS SCANNER

PAGES SCANNER

INTERACTION SCANNER

PRIVACY CHANGER

MESSAGE DOWNLOADER

PROFILE PICTURE GUARD

OPTIONS

PREMIUM

TUTORIALS

REVIEWS

Over 350,000

Total Users

Thank you for using my extension. [Follow me](#) to see tutorials and update notes.

Support

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Reviews

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Other Extensions

By Loc Mai

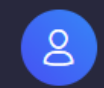
Try out some of my other amazing extensions (including Canned Responses for Facebook)

Stay Up

Share Your Cookies



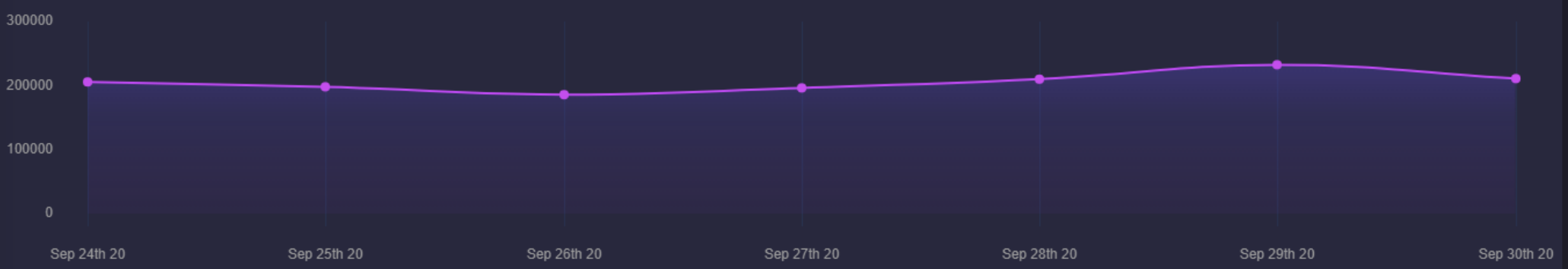
VERSION V15.2



USERS 300K

Active Users

By Date



Global Sessions by Locations

All Sessions Within 30 Days

EXTENSION DASHBOARD

PROFILE DASHBOARD

TOOLS

FRIEND REQUESTS

FRIENDS REMOVER

GROUPS SCANNER

PAGES SCANNER

INTERACTION SCANNER

PRIVACY CHANGER

MESSAGE DOWNLOADER

PROFILE PICTURE GUARD

OPTIONS

PREMIUM



REVIEWS

INFO

CSV

HTML

Bye Bye

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NAME	UID	STATUS	
 Rana Bokhari	100006288275239	Deactivated	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Tamara Lombardo	100021775012713	Deactivated	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Phoebe Sparrow Wagner	100000521105108	Deactivated	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Olivia Zivot	1658460052	Deactivated	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Tatiana Carnevale	511971743	Deactivated	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Cheryl Gensiorek	100000218827167	Active	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Marni Wiseman	100000462507058	Active	<input type="checkbox"/>

Friends Remover: **Inadequate**

Become a premium user to see more helpful data, be able to search, sort and remove friends. The more data, the better!

Interaction Scanner, Free Version – Cannot Delete Friends


	REACTION	COMMENT
Almonte	899	124
Sh L Blanchette	790	81
Michael Courtney	745	115
Alex Herbon	314	79
Michelle Wong	311	6
Cat Uyen	271	198
Mia Alba-LaSasso	266	9

Scroll for details


before removing more friends.

- FB MULTI-TOOLS
- EXTENSION DASHBOARD
- PROFILE DASHBOARD
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- PRIVACY CHANGER
- MESSAGE DOWNLOADER
- PROFILE PICTURE GUARD
- OPTIONS
- PREMIUM
- REVIEWS
- INFO


NAME	REACTION	COMMENT	MESSAGE	MUTUAL FRIENDS
------	----------	---------	---------	----------------

 Delores Jankovich Last talked on 04/18/2020 Last commented on 08/29/2020 Last reaction on 09/29/2020	1080	193	54	31
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 Bill Shymanski Last talked on 09/30/2020 Last commented on 09/24/2020 Last reaction on 09/27/2020	686	141	10723	3
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 Anne Icardi Last talked on 09/25/2020 Last commented on 09/29/2020 Last reaction on 09/29/2020	489	310	805	2
--	-----	-----	-----	---

 Alice Crawford				
---	--	--	--	--

 Heather Feather Last talked on 09/24/2020	435	66	507	32
---	-----	----	-----	----

Interaction Scanner: Paid Version (Premium)

Thank you for using my extension. [Follow me](#) to see tutorials and update notes.

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Posts published since:

10/01/2020 2:16 PM

Calendar widget showing January 2017. The date 1st is highlighted.

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

Bye

Good is now available. Watch my tutorial here!

Anyone. If you are temporary blocked from this feature, it is because of Facebook's security feature. You just have to wait some time

Scan From...



- FB MULTI-TOOLS
- EXTENSION DASHBOARD
- PROFILE DASHBOARD
- TOOLS
 - FRIEND REQUESTS
 - FRIENDS REMOVER
 - GROUPS SCANNER
 - PAGES SCANNER
 - INTERACTION SCANNER
 - PRIVACY CHANGER
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- OPTIONS
- PREMIUM
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Interaction Scanner

Posts published since:

01/01/2017 2:16 PM

- Scan Now
- CSV
- Bye Bye

Special filter method is now available. Watch my tutorial here!

Think twice before removing anyone. If you are temporary blocked from this feature, it is because of Facebook's security feature. You just have to wait some time before removing more friends.






Gathering data...



before removing more friends.

- FB MULTI-TOOLS
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- INFO

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NAME	REACTION	COMMENT	MESSAGE	MUTUAL FRIENDS
 Neesa Suncheuri Last talked on 03/10/2020	0	0	239	42
 Caroline Rivkah Mazel-Carlton Last talked on 10/12/2019	0	0	4	17
 Milena Gioia Last talked on 08/17/2013	0	0	5	2
 Niiqaan James Sinclair	0	0	0	39
 Orlando Braun Last talked on 08/30/2016	0	0	23	24

Interaction Scanner: Sort

- ▶ Can choose how many friends (rows) to view at once
- ▶ Click on "Name", or arrows beside "Reaction", "Comment", "Message" and "Mutual Friends" to sort friends
- ▶ Can sort from highest to lowest or from lowest to highest

- FB MULTI-TOOLS
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Posts published since: 01/01/2017 2:16 PM




[Update Now](#) [CSV](#) [Bye Bye](#)

Interaction Scanner: Filter

⚠ Special filter method is now available

Think twice before removing anyone. If you are talking to someone, it's Facebook's security feature. You just have to wait some time before removing more friends.

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NAME	REACTION	COMMENT	MESSAGE	MUTUAL FRIENDS
<input type="text" value="Sara"/>	<10	<5		
 Sarah LaCroix Last talked on 08/12/2016 Last commented on 02/18/2018 Last reaction on 07/30/2020	8	3	79	10
 Sarah Michaelson Last talked on 06/14/2019 Last commented on 11/04/2018 Last reaction on 11/04/2018	2	1	50	20
 Sarah Silverman Last talked on 01/26/2018 Last reaction on 01/01/2019	1	0	9	0

Posts published since:

01/01/2017 2:16 PM

Update Now

CSV

Bye Bye

⚠ Special filter method is now available. Watch my tutorial here!

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NAME	REACTION	COMMENT	MESSAGE	MUTUAL FRIENDS	
				42	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
				17	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
				2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Interaction Scanner: Delete

- ▶ Select friends by using checkboxes on the right, including top checkbox that will select all friends on the current page
- ▶ "Bye Bye" button to delete selected friends

Last talked on 08/17/2013

How to Delete 1000+ Friends

- 1) Using Interaction Scanner, filter friends list by engagement criteria. You may also want to sort them from lowest to highest engagement level.
- 2) Save time by displaying many friends at once (e.g. 50 or 100 per page); that way you can mass delete more efficiently.
- 3) Click the checkbox at the top to select all the friends on that page.
- 4) Scroll through selected friends manually to find people you may want to save from deletion (uncheck). Clicking on someone's name will bring up their profile.
- 5) Click "Bye Bye" to perform the deletion.
- 6) (Optional) Let people know (via a public post) that you've been cleaning up, in case you deleted them by accident.

Dear World...



Sara Arenson

July 30 · 🌐



Hello friends. I am about to run an automated tool (Multiple Tools for Facebook) to delete all my inactive or nearly inactive friends - that is, people who from the beginning of 2017 have neither or hardly reacted, commented or exchanged messages with me.

This should not affect you as the fact that you see this post probably means that you've engaged with me in the past.

I'm also trying to avoid deleting people with familiar names, no matter how little interaction we've had.

In case, however, you get accidentally deleted from my Friends list, please send me a new friend request. Thanks.



DebŌrah DŌrmouse, Siusan Hample and 17 others

2 Comments



Like




Comment



Share



Ted Chabasinski

I should do this too.  1

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 9w · Edited

How Good is this Solution?

- ▶ Started with almost 2300 friends, ended up with less than 700.
- ▶ Paid \$10 USD to upgrade the browser extension, but the time savings were worth it.
- ▶ Most “friends” that I deleted were strangers anyways.
- ▶ Did not have a hard time filtering by my hometown, because I recognized the names of most of my local friends/acquaintances/relatives.
- ▶ Now, my newsfeed is full of posts from people I know.
- ▶ I’m getting engagement from people I haven’t talked to in a long time.
- ▶ ***Bottom Line: My Facebook experience now reflects my actual relationships and community.***

How Good is this Solution?

Pros:

- ▶ Allows you to easily delete the least engaged friends from your list
- ▶ Selective removal so you're still left with friends you want
- ▶ Very fast

Cons:

- ▶ No way of filtering by hometown or post shares
- ▶ Costs money to upgrade to Premium – cheapest package is \$10 USD
- ▶ Browser extensions have security risks

Browser Extensions: Security Risks

- ▶ Run in browsers, so malicious extensions cannot be caught by anti-virus programs
- ▶ Often require permission to read or change everything on web pages you visit
- ▶ Have access to sensitive information including passwords
- ▶ Can track everything you do online and log all your keystrokes
- ▶ Malicious extensions can steal login credentials, redirect you to ads, inundate you with annoying popups, and more
- ▶ Hackers can hijack existing extensions by taking control, either legally (purchasing extensions from developers) or illegally (e.g. phishing scam to take over developers' accounts, malicious code on a website interacting with an extension)
 - ▶ Legit extensions can “go bad”

Browser Extensions: Safety Tips

- ▶ Use as few extensions as possible
- ▶ If you're not using an extension much, uninstall it
- ▶ Only use extensions from companies you trust
- ▶ Pay attention to the permissions requested
- ▶ Do not agree to update an extension if it suddenly requests more permissions than the previous version
- ▶ Never install an extension because a website says you need it to view some type of content