

New Social Networking Apps

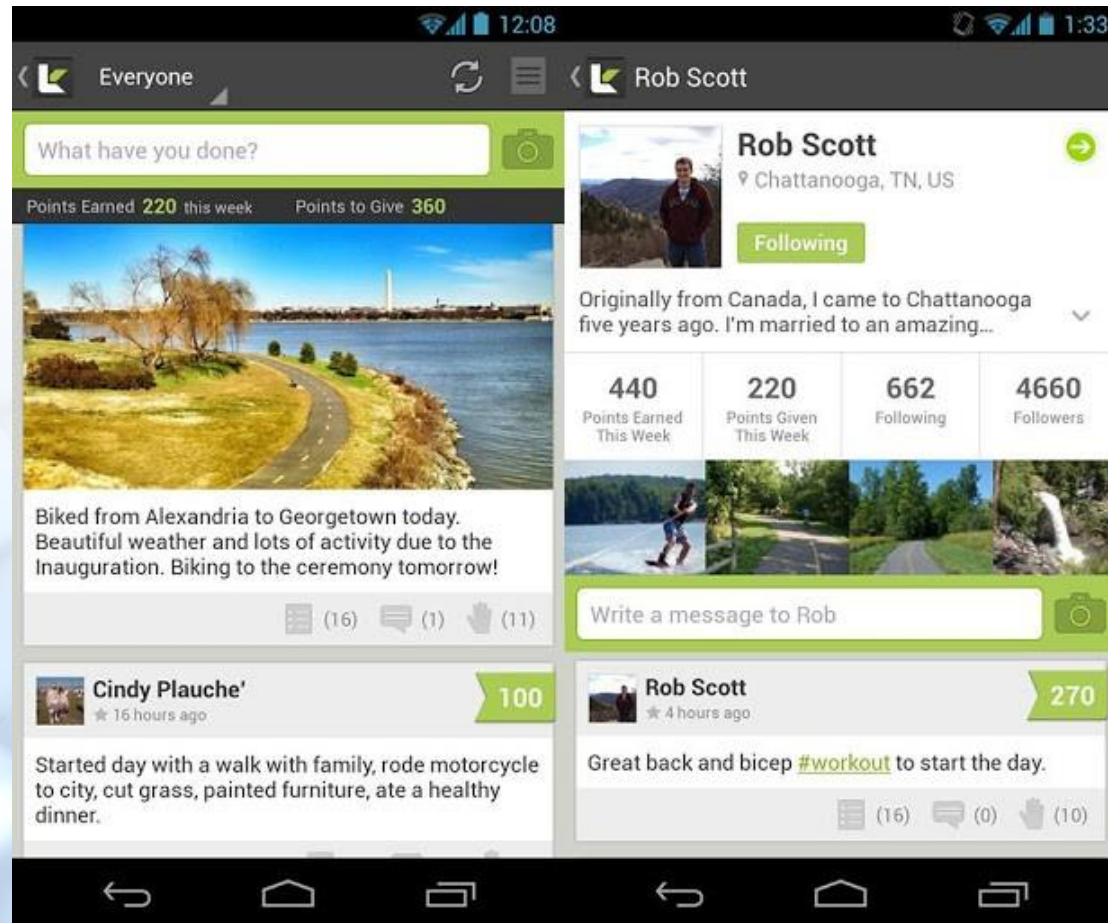
Do you track your child's Facebook account and texting (We certainly hope so!)? Well, time for an update on alternative networking and messaging apps teens are using (often with a much more "raw" side of their lives exposed). Before proceeding, a quick check on your cell phone app savvy...would you recognize these apps as potential dangers if you saw them on your kids' phones?



New Social Networking Apps



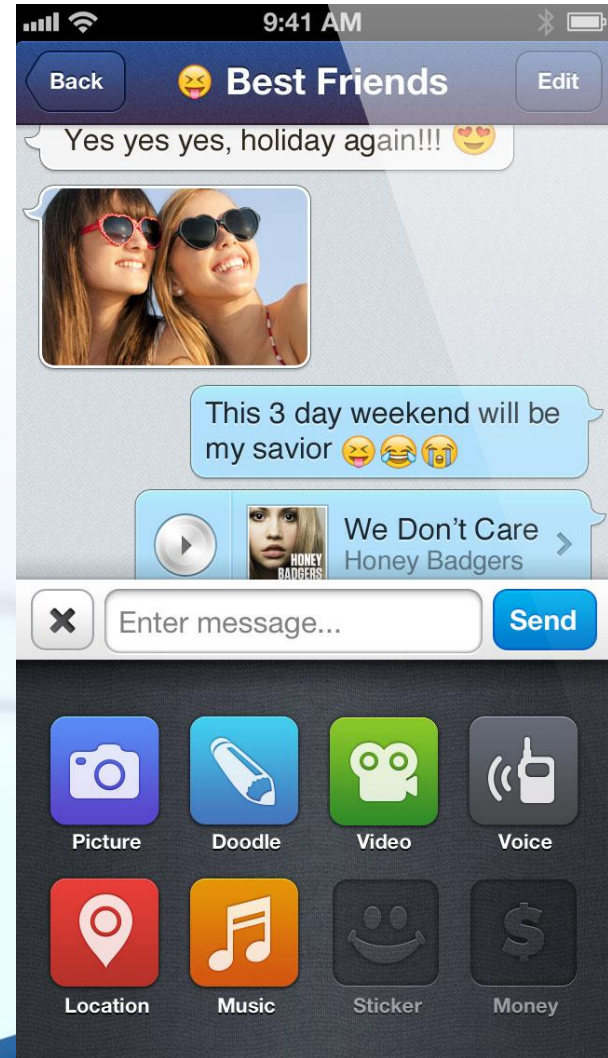
LifeKraze (You can post 160-character updates on what you've done and receive points, cheers, high fives, and comments to encourage you. Its actually meant to be a positive thing, but that isn't always the case)



New Social Networking Apps



MessageMe (a newer entrant into the crowded field of mobile messaging apps. The app launched early in 2013 and is focused on multimedia and context, allowing people to mix media by drawing on photos and send instant messages that blend media types. It has a slick interface designed to simplify the process of creating and sharing multimedia messages in real time. MessageMe is available for iPhone/iPad and Android devices)



New Social Networking Apps



Viber aka The New Skype

Viber is a cross-platform instant messaging voice-over-Internet Protocol application for smartphones (hmmm...what does THAT mean exactly? It simply means that its main appeal is the ability to use WIFI or a paid mobile data plan on a smart phone to circumvent the limits of a paid voice-calling plan and/or paid SMStext messaging plan. The voice calls use VOIP, or voice over the Internet.

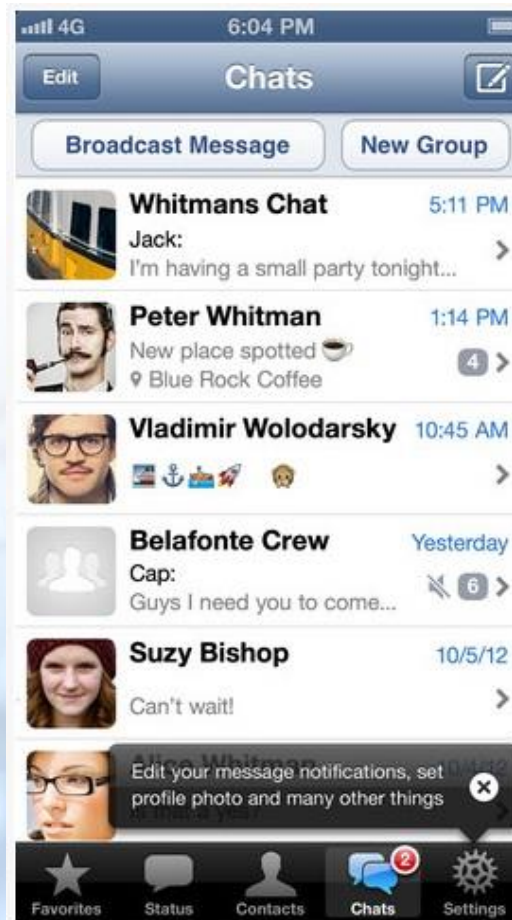


New Social Networking Apps



WhatsApp

WhatsApp is a mobile text messaging app designed to let cell phone users send text messages without having to pay SMS fees to their carriers. The messages are sent via the Internet and therefore require the user to have a data plan on their phone, which is typical of these messaging apps. Messages can include video, audio and photos, not just text.



New Social Networking Apps



Line Mobile Messaging (another Skype Rival)

Line is a mobile messaging and voice calling app with social networking and gaming features that increasingly has been going global. In addition to free voice calls and instant text messaging with, the Line messages app offers **games you can play with your Line friends and a built-in camera app** with filters for sharing photos with them.

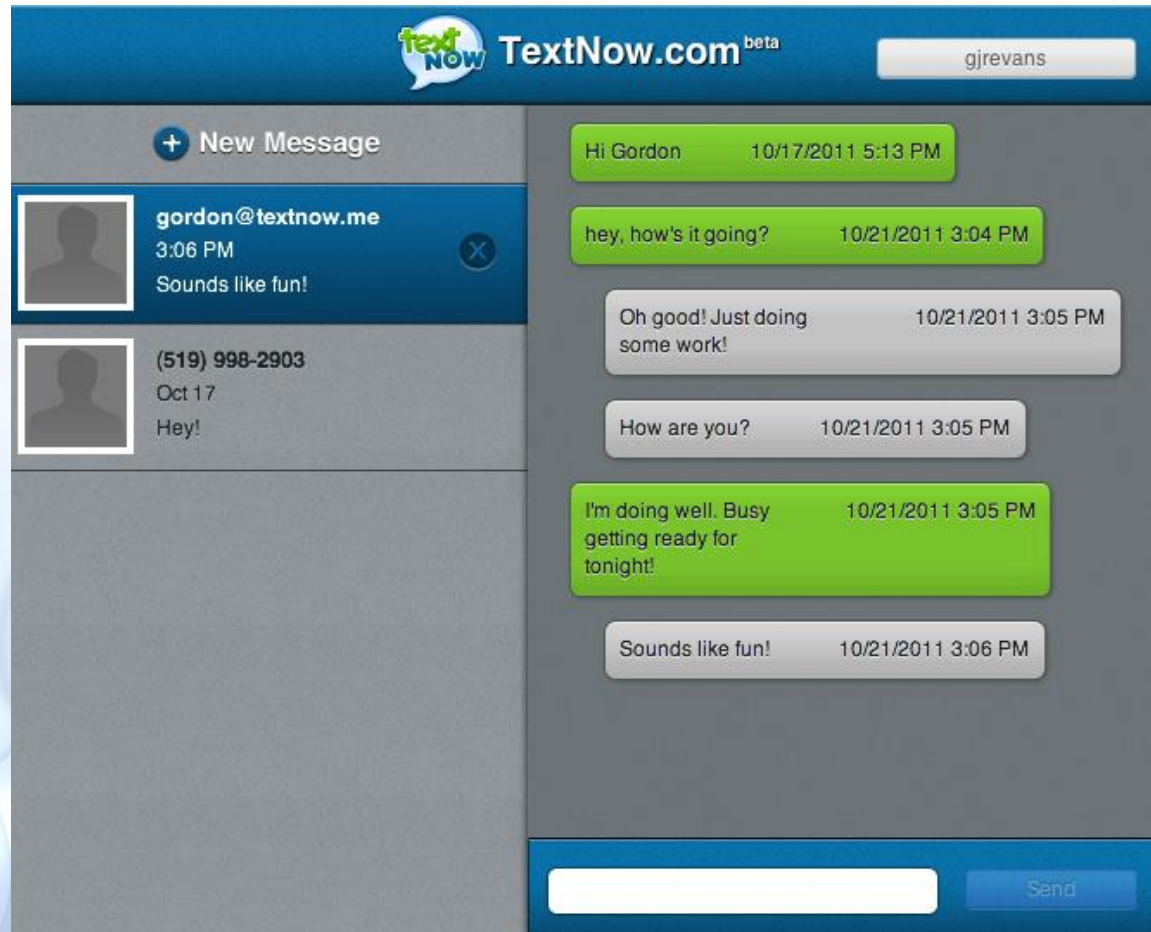


New Social Networking Apps



TextNow

TextNow is yet another mobile app that offers free voice calling and messaging by piggybacking on WIFI and/or user data plans. It works on desktop computers as well as mobile phones, and assigns each user an individual phone number for receiving phone calls and text messages.



New Social Networking Apps



Talkatone

Another mobile app offering free voice calling and text messaging over WiFi or 3G/4G/LTE data plans. The Talkaphone website says the app Talkatone app allows people to "call and text any US or Canadian phone over WiFi or Data (3G/4G), **without requiring cell minutes.**"

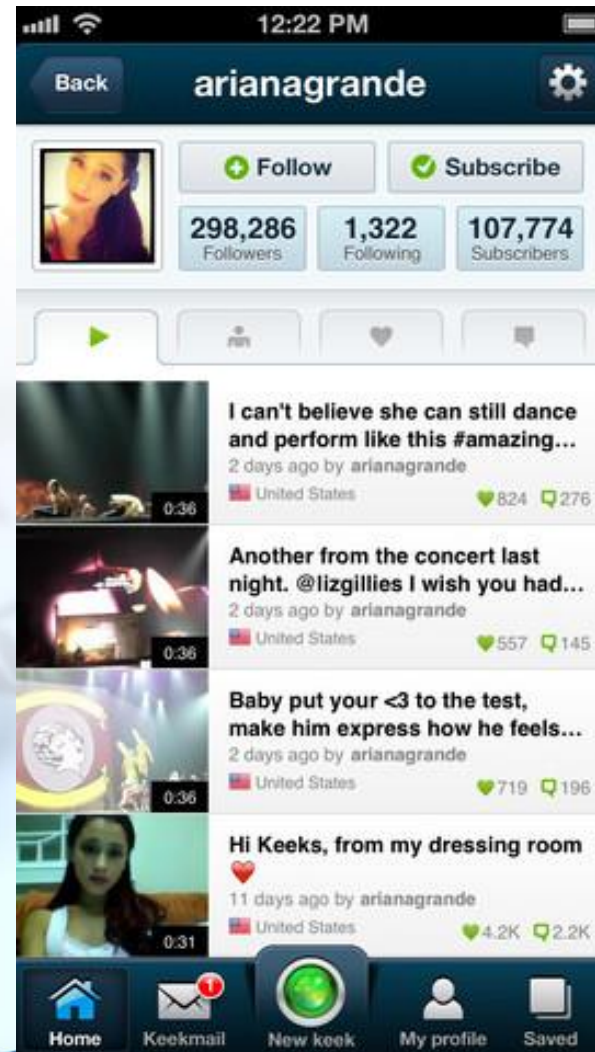


New Social Networking Apps



Keek

Keek is a video messaging service for mobile phones. You can think of it as a video knockoff of Twitter. People use it to record and share video status updates of up to 36 seconds, which they can share directly with Keek contacts or post to Facebook, Tumblr, Twitter and their personal page on Keek.com.

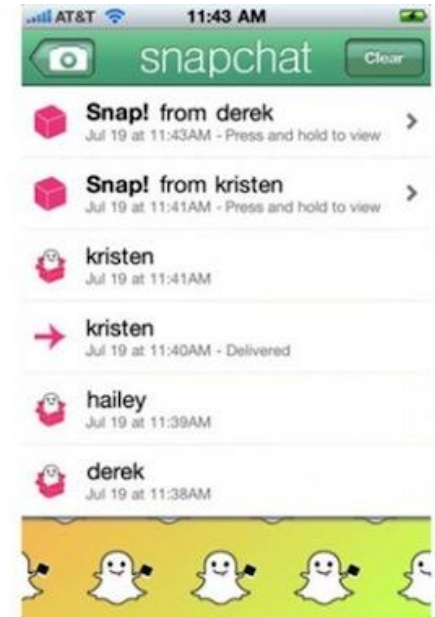
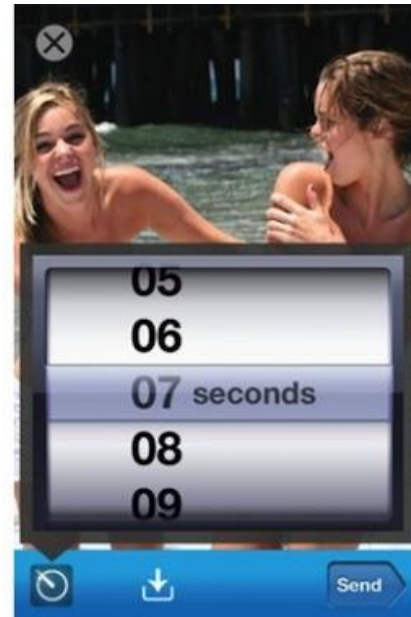


New Social Networking Apps



SnapChat

Snapchat differs from most mobile communication apps in that it specializes in sending messages with a particular feature—they disappear. That's right, messages sent with Snapchat self-destruct seconds after the recipient views them (However, there are ways around this...see next slide for details). The once thought short-lived nature of Snapchat messages has made the app controversial yet popular with young people.



New Problems With SnapChat

Rule #1 on the Internet: If there's a private picture out there that's supposed to automatically delete itself and disappear forever within a matter of seconds after sending, someone will find a way to make that picture last forever. That's the current trouble facing picture chat facilitation center Snapchat, a mobile sext city whose entire business operates around the promise that your private pictures will be long gone by the time someone else can think to get their hands on them.

There's now somewhat of a slip in the Snapchat syntax, and photos that were once meant to be viewable for only 10 seconds may now live on for eternity. Snapchat can't stop you from saving screenshots, but it does alert the sender when you save their snaps. Or, at least, it's supposed to. Well, as it turns out, you can bypass Snapchat's screenshot notification feature (Snapchat sends a message to the picture's sender every time a recipient takes a screenshot of the photo) by double-clicking an iPhone's home button immediately after you screenshot the scene.

The double-click on the home button brings up the iPhone's multitasking bar, a performance that will cause the app to not register that someone just created a screenshot. The glitch is possible because of the way that Snapchat detects screenshots. Simply put, a signal has to get sent between the app and the phone's iOS that registers the fact that a screenshot is taken. Once that's done, the screenshot notification gets sent from Snapchat to the sender.

You can mess with its science by quickly throwing another direction at the phone (in this case, a callout for the multitasking bar). When that happens, the app never receives a notification that anybody's screenshooting anything at all, and all your private pics are now subject to the public.

New Social Networking Apps



Voxer

Commonly known as a "walkie talkie" or "push-to-talk" app because when you click on its little talk button, you can send an instant voice message or multimedia message. The message is either instantly played through your friend's phone speakers if their phone is turned on and the app is running, or it is received as a recorded message like voicemail. Voxer also enables text and photo messaging, like most mobile messaging apps do. It also enables VOIP voice calling like Skype does, and group messaging.

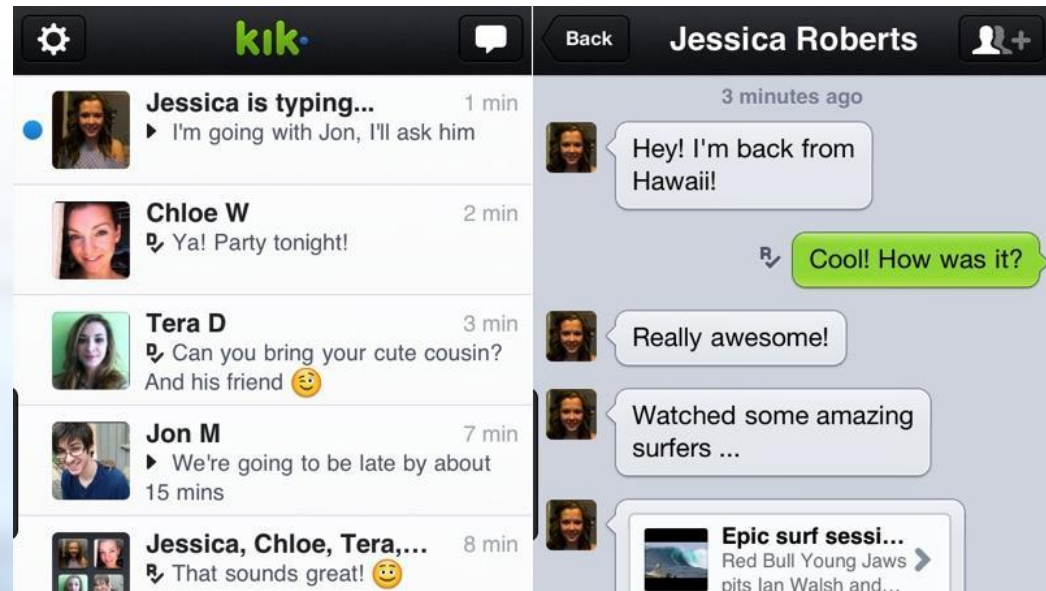


New Social Networking Apps



Kik

Kik uses a smartphone's data plan or WiFi to transmit and receive messages, a feature that appeals to individuals looking to avoid text messaging rates set by phone service providers (and parents). Kik offers fast text messaging service and also allows users to share photos, sketches, voice messages, and other content. Kik Messenger uses a username instead of a phone number, allowing for more privacy than other forms of text messaging.

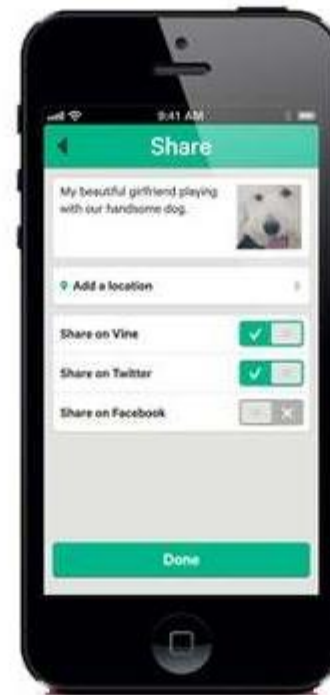


New Social Networking Apps



Vine (Twitter for Videos)

A mobile app that enables its users to create and post video clips. Video clips created with Vine have a maximum length of 6 seconds and can be shared or embedded on social networking services such as Twitter—which acquired the app in October 2012—and Facebook.



One More to Know (not a networking App, but it is concerning)



POOF

Poof is an app that allows you to hide and unhide icons on your SpringBoard (your iPhone interface). The apps are still there, but cannot be seen unless you know how to access them. Poof requires the phone to be "JailBroken", so if this may be a red flag app if you find it on your child's phone.

