



When someone dies, their loved ones must cope with grief, while also managing practical responsibilities. In today's digital era, this includes managing the online accounts and digital content a person leaves behind. Preparing your digital legacy can help ease this process for your loved ones.

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Digital Legacy Planning

Version 1

What is your digital legacy?

Your digital legacy includes all the online content you've created and traces of your activity:

- This includes your emails, text messages, social media posts, photos, web sites, journal entries, etc.
- It also includes records of your interactions, such as shopping transactions, media streaming history, medical appointments, schedules, etc.



Think of every username and password you have. Each one is attached to an account that someone will have to deal with after you die.

*Some platforms, such as **Google**, **Apple**, and **Facebook**, allow you to set up digital legacy contacts.*

*However, it's still important to talk to your loved ones about this and make a plan for **all** your accounts.*



Digital legacy planning is important because, after you die:

1. Your loved ones may want **access** to important things like family photos, documents, financial accounts, etc.
2. Unused accounts can become vulnerable to hacking if they aren't properly managed or **shut down**.
3. You can protect your **privacy** by deciding what information is shared and what stays private or is deleted.

What is involved in digital legacy planning?

1. Decide and document **who** should handle your various online accounts.
2. Decide and document **what** online content should be kept or deleted.
3. Set up a way for your loved ones to **access** your accounts after you die (we suggest using a good password manager and setting up a legacy contact within it).



Dr. Celine Latulipe is a professor in the Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) Lab at the University of Manitoba. She and her students are working on tools to help support people in digital legacy planning.