

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

# DEATH AND THE INTERNET



### >>> Key points

We keep a lot of our lives online without realising it. Email, eBooks, music libraries, document storage, our family photos and long distance friendships mostly live online. The Internet is a part of our lives. And so is death.

It's not something we like to talk about, but we're all going to die. So what happens to all our Internet stuff in the event of our death? This resource is here to help you organise your online assets now, and save your loved ones a lot of time and hassle.

When people have 'real life' assets - like houses, savings accounts and cars - we think about what will happen to them after we're gone. But do we think about our digital assets? If you're a gamer do you think about all that gear you hold for your guild? What about all your music? Your iCloud or OneDrive subscription are great, but what happens when your subscription runs out? Will your family be able to recover important records?

Getting your Facebook, Twitter, Trade Me, Instagram, Amazon and iTunes accounts sorted isn't as simple as your family emailing the company and advising of your death. You need to plan ahead so your loved ones know what you want to happen with your digital legacy.

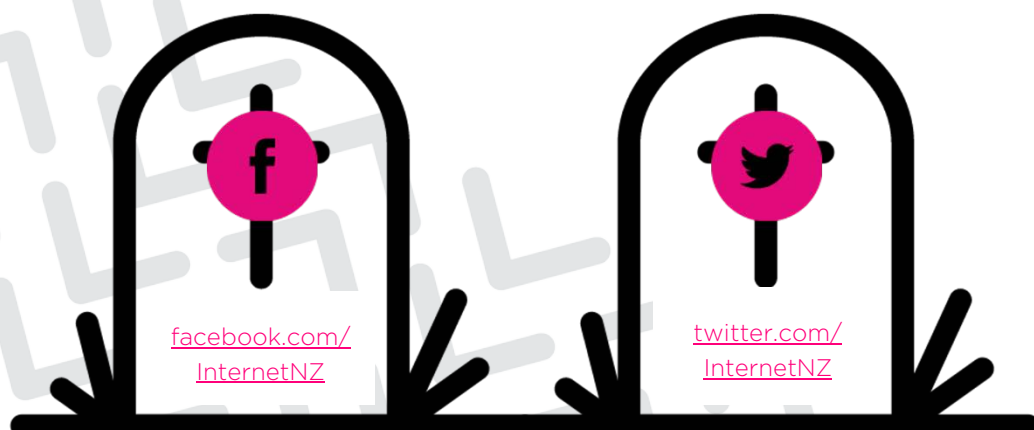
### >>> Have you thought about...

What you want to happen to your social media sites when you die?

- + Do you want to keep a memorial page on Facebook or do you want all your accounts deactivated and deleted?
- + Have you considered appointing a 'legacy contact' under your Facebook security settings?
- + Do you know who can officially ask Twitter for your account to be deactivated?
- + Would you want your Instagram to be kept up or removed? If so, by who?
- + How would you like your Tumblr followers to be notified, and what should be done with your blogs?
- + How do you get your LinkedIn profile amended or removed?

What should happen to services or assets you run which your family or business partners rely on?

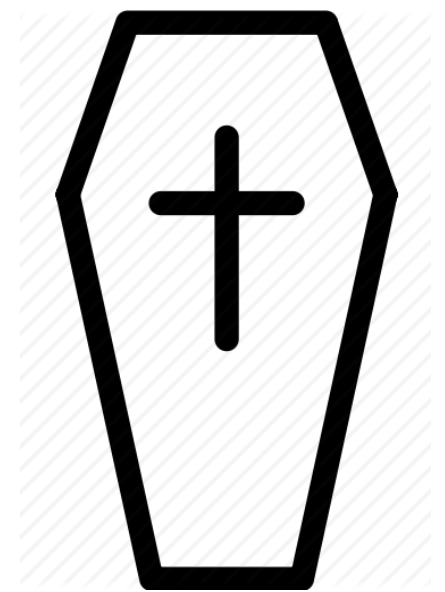
- + Who manages your ISP account?
- + Do you have domain registrations and websites?
- + What about your Trade Me account? Do you trade often? What happens to your auto-bids if you die mid-auction?



### >>> Our checklist

Here's a checklist to help you get your digital legacy organised.

- Make a will, or at least write down what you want to happen when you die.
- Start collating all of your account details in a password manager and then print off five 'one time passwords.' Store these in an envelope with your will and your login details. (But, don't put your online banking details there, let your executor deal with the banks.)
- Set a legacy contact for your Facebook page.
- Make sure you know what your options are for other popular online services like these:
  - + YouTube
  - + Twitter
  - + LinkedIn
  - + Pinterest
  - + Trade Me
- Create local back-ups for important documents and family photos.
- Make someone your digital executor. The person who is best to handle your financial and family affairs might not be the person you want to work through your online accounts and deal with service providers.
- If you're a gamer, catalogue your gaming assets.
- Do you have a PGP key? If so, you should store both your private key, and your revocation key in a safe (or a safe place) with a copy of your will so your loved ones can decrypt important information if needed, and then revoke your key (you won't be needing it anymore).



### >>> Useful resources

- + The NZ Law Society has a checklist for organising your digital legacy. <http://www.lawsociety.org.nz/news-and-communications/news/2011/february/digital-legacy-checklist-and-information-on-web-service-policies>
- + The Australian Communications Consumer Action Network also provides information and resources on its site. <http://accan.org.au/hot-issues/1247-managing-your-digital-legacy>
- + Watch the InternetNZ speaker series event on Death and the Internet. <https://internetnz.nz/event/death-and-internet>
- + Seven Sharp did a story about raising awareness and getting people to think about this. Check out the video. <http://tvnz.co.nz/seven-sharp/website-speaks-you-facebook-re-dead-video-6477383>