Setting Up
Your Profile

When you set up your MySpace account, you get a basic profile with your name, your picture, and a few contact links. To make your MySpace profile *your* space, you need to customize. Chapters 2 and 3 offer some powerful profile customization tips, but this chapter gets you off to a more leisurely start with a few simple customizations. For example, you will

learn how to change your profile name, how to get a custom MySpace Web address, and how to add more photos to your site and use one of those photos as your new profile picture. You will also learn how to specify a networking category, set up an offline message, and cancel your account if things do not work out.

Quick Tips

Change Your Profile Display Name

You can change your profile display name to something that better suits you or the topic of your MySpace Web site.

When you sign up for a MySpace account, one of the first things you specify is a name that you want the MySpace world to know you as. This name appears at the top of your profile, above your picture.

Because your MySpace profile acts as a kind of online persona, it is possible that the persona you want the world to see may change after a while. If that happens, then you might want to change your display name to something more suited to the new you or to the new theme of your profile.

① In MySpace, click Home.

② Click Edit Profile.

The Profile Edit - Interests & Personality page appears.

③ Click Name.

④ Type the new display name.

5 Click Save Changes.

MySpace updates your profile.

6 Click View My Profile.

● Your profile appears with the new display name.

Note: *In Chapter 3, see the "Replace Your Profile Name with a Custom Image" task to learn how to use an image in place of your name.*

TIP

More Options!

By default, you do not have any way to customize the look of your profile name, just the text itself. Note, however, that MySpace only allows a maximum of 50 characters for the name. If you would like to dress up your name with fonts and colors, see the first three tasks in Chapter 2.

Get a Custom Web Address for Your Profile

You can make it easier to direct other people to your MySpace profile by setting up a custom MySpace Web address.

When you first sign up with MySpace, they assign you an eight-digit "friend ID," and that ID is used as the address of your profile. Here is an example:

www.myspace.com/77453322

Having a number as part of your address makes your address nearly impossible for

other people to remember. To solve this problem, you can sign up for a custom MySpace Web address, which looks something like this:

www.myspace.com/*MyProfile*

In an actual address, the *MyProfile* part would be some name that you specify. This is much easier to remember, so having such an address makes it simple to send people to your profile.
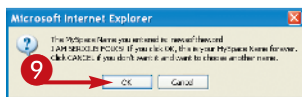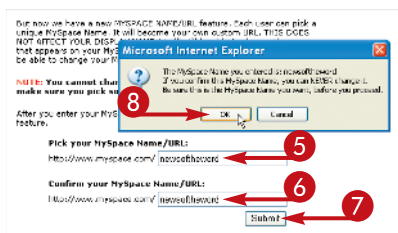
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1 In MySpace, click Home.

2 Click Edit Profile.

The Profile Edit - Interests & Personality page appears.

3 Click Name.

4 Click Pick Your Permanent MySpace User Name/URL.

5 Type the text you want to use for your address.

6 Type the text again.

7 Click Submit.

MySpace warns you that you can never change the address.

8 Click OK.

MySpace warns you again that you can never change the address.

9 Click OK.

● If you do not want to give MySpace your real name, click Skip.

10 Type your first name.

11 Type your last name.

12 Click Submit.

MySpace shows your new MySpace address.

TIP

Caution!

As the warnings that the MySpace displays indicate, you cannot change your Web address once you select it. If you decide you prefer a different address, you have no choice but to start up a new MySpace account. Therefore, give serious thought to the address you prefer before committing to it.

Upload Photos to Your Profile

You can give your profile visitors some good eye candy by uploading a lot of pictures to your profile.

In your main profile page, visitors can then click the Pics link on your profile page to view images you have uploaded to your profile. By default, the Pics page contains only the image you uploaded when you first signed up with MySpace.

However, MySpace allows you to upload other photos to your profile. Having a lot of interesting and fun images can really make your site popular.

Note that you cannot upload images of cartoons, celebrities, nudity, or pornography, or copyrighted images. The images must be less than 600KB and must be in either the JPEG or GIF format.

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1 In MySpace, click Home.
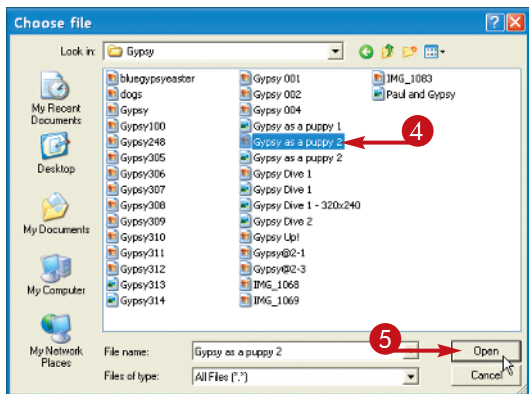
2 Click Upload / Change Photos.

The Upload Your Photo page appears.

3 Click Browse.

The Choose File dialog box appears.

④ Click the file you want to upload.

⑤ Click Open.

● The file path appears in the text box.

⑥ Click Upload.

MySpace uploads the file to your profile.

TIP

More Options!

You can make your photos more interesting by adding captions that describe, date, or title the images. Follow Steps **1** and **2** to display the Upload Your Photo page. Scroll down the page until you see the photo with which you want to work, and then click Add Caption. Type the caption in the text box that appears, and then click Update Caption. When MySpace asks you to confirm, click Post Caption.

Change Your Default Profile Picture

You can present a different face to the MySpace world by changing your default profile image.

When you signed up for your MySpace account, you were given the opportunity to upload a picture to MySpace, and that picture became the image that appears on your main profile page. This picture also appears when you send messages, friend requests, bulletins, and invitations,

post to a group, and when people use the MySpace Browse feature to look for your profile. In other words, your default profile photo is your MySpace "face."

If you have uploaded other photos — as described in the previous task — then you may have a new image that you think is more suitable to appear as your MySpace image. If so, then you can change your default photo to the new image.

① Click Home.

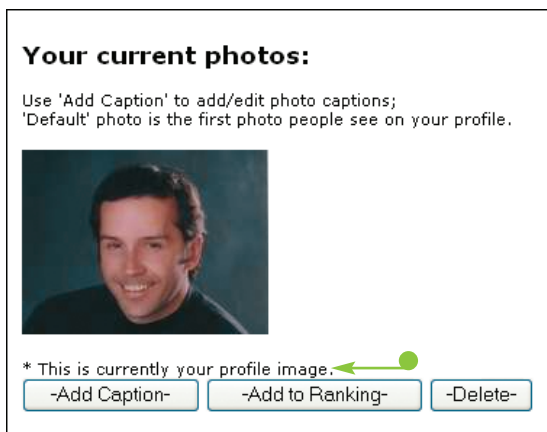② Click Upload / Change Photos.

The Upload Your Photo page appears.

③ Below the image you want to use for your profile, click Set As Default.
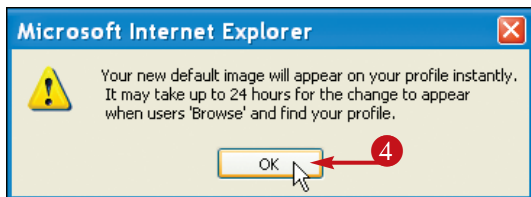
MySpace warns you that it may take up to 25 hours for other users to see the new picture when they use Browse to find you.

④ Click OK.

● MySpace adds "This is currently your profile image" under the photo.

TIP

More Options!

If you have photos that you no longer want others to view, you should delete them to reduce the amount of time it takes for your Pics page to load. Follow Steps **1** and **2** to display your uploaded photos, and then click Delete under a photo you no longer need. Click OK when MySpace asks you to confirm.

Specify a Networking Affiliation for Your Profile

You can contact people in the same line of work as you by specifying the field in which you work and what you do in that field.

Although MySpace is a great way to meet new friends, it is also a good source for new career opportunities. If you specify your line of work — what MySpace calls your networking affiliation — you can then search for other MySpace members in the same line of work and make contact with any that look interesting or promising.

The first step is to specify your networking affiliation, which means the field in which you work, the sub-field, and the role you play. You can then search on this information, which is covered in the next task.

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① **Click Home.**

② **Click Edit Profile.**

The Profile Edit - Interests & Personality page appears.

③ **Click Networking.**

④ In the Field list, click the field in which you work.

⑤ In the Sub-Field list, click the sub-field in which you work.

⑥ In the Role list, click your role at work.

⑦ Type a description for your work.

● To include a link to your home page, type the following in the Description box (replace *URL* with the address):

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<a href="URL">
My Home Page</a>
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⑧ Click Save Changes.

● MySpace adds the networking affiliation to your profile.

TIP

More Options!

If you want to use MySpace for networking, be sure to let everyone who views your profile know that. Click Home, click Edit Profile, and then click Basic Info. In the Basic Information window, scroll down to the I Am Here For section and click Networking (☐ changes to ☑).

Find People for Networking

You can enhance your career prospects by using the MySpace Search feature to look for members who are in the same line of work as you.

You saw in the previous task that you can update your profile to include your networking affiliation: your work field, sub-field, and role. After you have done that, you may receive messa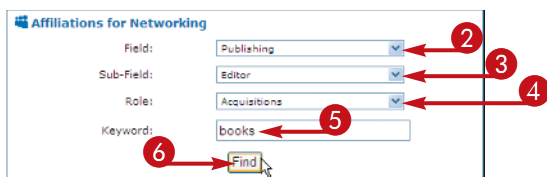ges or friend requests from people in the same line of work. However, why wait to be contacted? You can use the MySpace Search feature to display a list of members who are in the same line of work. Of course, your networking searches are not limited to people who do the same job as you. For example, if you are a writer, you may be interested in contacting acquisitions editors or publishers.

① Click Search.

The MySpace Search page appears.

② In the Field list, click the field you want to search.

③ In the Sub-Field list, click the sub-field you want to search.

④ In the Role list, click the role you want to search.

⑤ Type an optional keyword to narrow your search.

⑥ Click Find.

MySpace displays the search results.

- MySpace displays enhanced Affiliation for Networking search options so you can refine your search.

⑦ Under Browse For, specify Women, Men, or Both (○ changes to ⦿).

⑧ Under Between Ages, click to specify an age range.

⑨ In the Country list, click to specify a country.

⑩ In the Postal Code list, click to specify a distance from a ZIP code.

⑪ Click Update.

MySpace displays the revised search results.

⑫ Use these links to contact a person with whom you want to network.

TIP

Try This!

If you want to find members with the same field, sub-field, or role as you, MySpace offers a quick method. In your profile, scroll down to the Networking section, and then click your field, sub-field, or role. MySpace runs a search for members who have the same networking affiliation as the one you clicked.

Set Up a Message to Display When You Are Offline

You can set up a message that people see when they view your profile while you are not online.

When people view your profile, MySpace displays an Online icon next to your picture when you are signed in, and nothing if you are not. For something a little friendlier, you can configure your account to display a message when you

are offline. This is usually called an *away message*. Your away message appears at the top of your profile.

You can also configure your account to not accept any new messages while you are offline. If other users click your Send a Message link, they just see your away message, instead.

① Click Home.

② Click Account Settings.

The Change Account Settings page appears.

③ Click View / Edit Away Message.
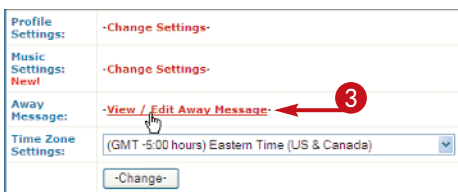
Enter your away message

④ → Sorry I missed you! I'm not on MySpace right now, but I'll be back soon. In the meantime, feel free to take a look around my profile. Make yourself at home!

Message:

⑤ → ☑ Show away message when someone wants to send me a message:

Save   cancel

The Enter Your Away Message page appears.

④ Click inside the Message box and type your message.

⑤ Click here if you want other people to see your message when they try to contact you (☐ changes to ☑).

Enter your away message

Sorry I missed you! I'm not on MySpace right now, but I'll be back soon. In the meantime, feel free to take a look around my profile. Make yourself at home!

Message:

☑ Show away message when someone wants to send me a message:

⑥ → Save   cancel

⑥ Click Save.

MySpace saves your away message.

TIP

Check This Out!

Crafting an interesting or funny away message is an art in itself, and there are many sites on the Web devoted to recording the best away messages. Many are aimed at instant messaging programs, but you can adapt the messages to MySpace easily enough. See www.awaymessages.com or www.awaybox.com. You can also run a Google search on the phrase "away messages."

Cancel Your MySpace Account

You can cancel your MySpace account if you want to start over with a fresh profile.

The first part of this chapter explained how to get a custom MySpace address for your profile. If you went through the steps in that task, you saw that MySpace warns you *twice* that you cannot change yo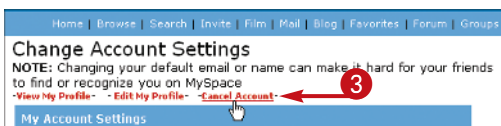ur address after you select it. So what do you do if you do not like the address you picked or if the address no longer fits the theme of your profile? Your only choice is to start over with a new account and then choose a different address. After you get your new profile set up, you can then delete your old MySpace account.

① Click Home.

② Click Account Settings.

The Change Account Settings page appears.

③ Click Cancel Account.

The Cancel MySpace Account page appears.

④ Click Cancel My Account.

MySpace asks you to explain why you are cancelling and to confirm that you want to cancel.

⑤ Click Cancel My Account.

TIP

Caution!

If you have important information on your MySpace profile that you want to preserve, be sure to copy that information to your computer before you cancel your account. Once you cancel your MySpace account, all your blog posts and other data get deleted, so be sure to save what you need.

You can also cancel your MySpace account if you want to leave the service.

Some people find that MySpace is a great deal of fun at first, but then it becomes less exciting over time. Most people do not have the time to keep up with a blog, which requires regular posts to keep an audience. Other people get tired of the constant spam messages, group invitations, rude comments, and other negative aspects of MySpace. You can prevent many of these unwanted messages by making your MySpace account more private (see Chapter 8) and more secure (see Chapter 9).

MySpace sends you an e-mail message to confirm the cancellation.

6 Switch to your e-mail program.
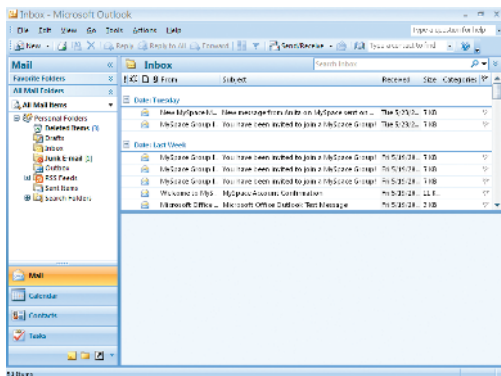
7 When the cancellation message arrives, click the message.

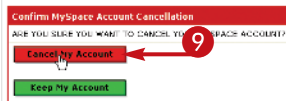**8** Click the cancellation link in the message.

MySpace asks you again to confirm that you want to cancel.

⑨ Click Cancel My Account.

MySpace cancels your account.

TIP

Important!

When you cancel your account, MySpace warns you that you must wait 48 hours if you want to create a new MySpace account using the same e-mail address as you used for your cancelled account. However, that is hardly ever the case. Most of the time, you can reuse your old MySpace e-mail address right away.