SOFTWARE & TECH

How To Remove Linkedin Profile

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Introduction: Why You Might Want to Remove Your LinkedIn Profile

LinkedIn has long been the go-to platform for professionals looking to network, find job opportunities, and build their personal brand. With over 900 million users, it is a powerful tool—but it is not for everyone. You might be considering how to remove your LinkedIn profile for a variety of reasons: you are switching to a different industry, you are retiring, you have privacy concerns, or you simply find the platform no longer serves your career goals. Whatever your motivation, permanently deleting your LinkedIn account is a straightforward process—but it is a decision that should not be taken lightly. Once you delete your profile, all your connections, recommendations, messages, and endorsements are gone for good. This article will walk you through every step of removing your LinkedIn profile, explain the differences between deactivation and deletion, and offer advice on what to do before you pull the trigger.

Understanding the Difference: Deactivation vs. Deletion

Before diving into the step-by-step guide, it is crucial to know that LinkedIn offers two distinct options for stepping away from the platform. One is temporary, the other permanent.

Temporary Deactivation (Freezing Your Profile)

If you are unsure about leaving LinkedIn forever, you can choose to deactivate your account. Deactivation hides your profile from search engines and other members, but all your data—connections, messages, posts, recommendations—remains saved on LinkedIn's servers. You can reactivate your account at any time by simply logging back in. This option is ideal if you want to take a break, focus on a job search elsewhere, or address privacy concerns without losing your network. Many people deactivate their profile when they are not actively looking for opportunities, but they plan to return later.

Permanent Deletion (Removing Your Profile Forever)

Permanent deletion is irreversible. Once you confirm that you want to delete your LinkedIn account, the platform initiates a grace period of a few days (typically 24 to 48 hours) during which you can change your mind. After that, your profile, along with all your data (including messages you sent to others, group memberships, and your entire feed history), is erased. You cannot retrieve it. If you decide later to rejoin LinkedIn, you must start from scratch with a new profile. Therefore, it is essential to download your data before requesting deletion. This article focuses primarily on how to permanently remove your LinkedIn profile, but we will also cover the deactivation steps for those who are undecided.

Preparing to Delete Your LinkedIn Profile: What You Must Do First

Before you hit the delete button, take these practical steps to ensure you do not lose valuable information or damage your professional relationships.

Download Your LinkedIn Data

LinkedIn gives you the option to export a copy of your profile data, including your connections, messages, posts, recommendations, and even your activity log. This is a critical step because once your profile is removed, you cannot access this data again. To download your data:

1. Log in to your LinkedIn account on a desktop or mobile browser.
2. Click on your profile picture in the top right corner and select "Settings & Privacy."
3. Under the "Data Privacy" tab, click "Get a copy of your data."
4. Choose the data you want to download—you can select everything or specific categories like connections, messages, or articles.
5. Click "Request archive." LinkedIn will prepare a ZIP file containing your data and send you an email link when it is ready. This can take up to 24 hours.

Notify Your Key Connections

If you have valuable professional relationships on LinkedIn, consider letting your closest contacts know you are leaving the platform. You can send them a direct message explaining your decision and providing alternative ways to stay in touch (email, phone, other social networks). This is especially important if you rely on LinkedIn for business referrals or mentorship. For many professionals, the network is more valuable than the profile itself, so preserving those connections matters.

Update Your Resume and Other Profiles

If you have been using your LinkedIn profile as a virtual resume, make sure you have an up-to-date version saved elsewhere—ideally a PDF or a document on your computer. Also, if you have cross-linked LinkedIn on other platforms (like Twitter, your personal website, or your email signature), remove those links to avoid sending visitors to a dead page.

Consider Alternative Platforms

Before removing your LinkedIn profile, think about where you will maintain your professional presence going forward. Some people switch to a personal website, a portfolio on Behance for creatives, or a GitHub profile for developers. Others rely on a well-maintained resume on platforms like Indeed or a simple Google Doc. Having a plan prevents you from feeling disconnected after deletion.

Step-by-Step Guide: How To Remove LinkedIn Profile Permanently

Now that you have prepared, follow these steps carefully. The process is nearly identical for both desktop and mobile browsers, though the mobile app may have slightly different navigation. I recommend using a desktop for clarity.

Step 1: Log In to LinkedIn

Go to **linkedin.com**and log in with your credentials. If you have multiple accounts, ensure you are logged into the one you intend to delete.

Step 2: Access Settings & Privacy

Click on your profile picture or the "Me" icon in the top navigation bar. From the dropdown, select **Settings & Privacy**. This will open a new page with account management options.

Step 3: Navigate to Account Preferences

In the left sidebar or the main panel, look for the **Account** tab (usually it is the first tab at the top). Under Account, select **Account preferences**.

Step 4: Find the Closing Your LinkedIn Account Option

Closing your LinkedIn account Click on the **Change** link next to that option. If you have a premium subscription, you may need to cancel that first (LinkedIn will prompt you).

Step 5: Indicate Your Reason

LinkedIn will ask you to specify why you want to delete your account. Common reasons include "I have privacy concerns," "I am not getting value from LinkedIn," "I found another job," or "Other." This step is mandatory but does not affect the deletion process. Select the most appropriate option or choose "Other" and provide a short explanation.

Step 6: Confirm Your Decision

After selecting the reason, LinkedIn will show you a summary of what will be lost (connections, messages, etc.). You may also see a prompt offering a free month of Premium to change your mind. Ignore the offers if you are set on deletion. Check the box that says **I acknowledge that I want to permanently close my account**. Then click **Continue**.

Step 7: Enter Your Password

For security, you will need to re-enter your LinkedIn password to confirm you are the account owner. Type your password and click **Done** (or **Confirm**, depending on the interface).

Step 8: Wait for the Grace Period

Your account is now scheduled for permanent deletion. LinkedIn will send you an email confirmation with a link to cancel the deletion if you change your mind. The grace period typically lasts a few days (often 48 hours). During this time, your profile is temporarily deactivated—others cannot see it, but you can still log in and cancel. After the grace period expires, the account is permanently removed.

How To Remove LinkedIn Profile Temporarily (Deactivation)

If you are not ready for permanent deletion, here is how to deactivate instead.

1. Follow Steps 1–3 above to reach Account preferences.
2. Under the Account tab, click Change next to "Account deactivation."
3. Select a reason for deactivation (similar options as deletion).
4. Enter your password and confirm.
5. Your profile will be hidden immediately. You can reactivate by logging in again at any time.

Note: Deactivation does not delete your data. It remains stored, and you can resume right where you left off. This is a good halfway choice if you are unsure.

What Happens After You Delete Your LinkedIn Profile?

Once the grace period ends, the following changes occur:

- Your profile is completely gone. Any direct links to your LinkedIn profile will show a "Profile Not Found" error.
- Your connections lose access. Friends and colleagues will no longer see you in their network list. If they try to message you via LinkedIn, it will fail.
- Recommendations and endorsements disappear. Any recommendations you received or gave are erased. Endorsements vanish.
- Messages you sent are still visible to the recipients? Actually, no. LinkedIn's policy states that if you delete your account, messages you sent may remain visible in the recipient's inbox, but your name will appear as "LinkedIn Member" (or similar). However, this is not guaranteed across all messaging interfaces. To be safe, assume that your sent messages may be anonymized.

- Group membership ends. You are automatically removed from all LinkedIn groups.
- LinkedIn pages you admin (company pages, showcase pages) will need a new admin or will be orphaned.

It is wise to transfer admin rights to another user before deletion.

Common Pitfalls and How to Avoid Them

The process of removing a LinkedIn profile is simple, but several mistakes can cause frustration.

Forgetting to Download Data

Many users rush to delete and later realize they lost months or years of professional connections and messages. Always download your data first. It is the single most important precaution.

Not Cancelling Premium Subscriptions

If you have LinkedIn Premium, you must cancel the subscription before you can delete the account. Otherwise, LinkedIn will block the deletion until the subscription is resolved. Go to **Settings & Privacy** > **Account preferences** > **Manage premium account**to cancel. You may still be billed for the current billing period, but cancellation stops future charges.

Not Notifying Important Contacts

If you use LinkedIn for business development or job seeking, your network may be confused when they suddenly cannot find you. A brief farewell message or an email to your top 20 contacts can soften the loss.

Sharing Login Info

Make sure you are not logged into LinkedIn on other devices where the account might be used by someone else (e.g., a shared computer). Deletion is final, so you want to be the sole decision-maker.

Frequently Asked Questions About Removing Your LinkedIn Profile

Can I delete my LinkedIn account without a password?

No. You must enter your password to confirm the deletion. If you have forgotten your password, use the "Forgot password?" option to reset it before proceeding.

How long does it take for LinkedIn to permanently delete my profile?

After you submit the deletion request, there is a grace period of about 24–48 hours during which you can cancel. After that, deletion is processed, but it may take up to 24 hours for all traces to be removed from LinkedIn's systems. In practice, the profile becomes invisible immediately after the grace period ends.

Will my LinkedIn profile show up in Google search after deletion?

Once your profile is deleted, LinkedIn removes the page, and search engines will eventually drop the cached version. However, if other websites have embedded your LinkedIn content or shared your public profile URL, those external links may persist. You cannot control that.

Can I create a new account with the same email after deleting?

Yes. After deletion, the email address associated with your old account is freed. You can sign up again with the same email, but you will start from scratch with no connections or history.

What if I only want to hide my profile from search results?

If you want to keep your account but become less visible, adjust your privacy settings. Go to **Settings & Privacy** > **Visibility**and turn off "Profile visibility for search engines." You can also limit who can see your profile to "Only your connections" or change your public profile settings. This gives

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