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# how to remove a linkedin profile

Published: September 3, 2026 | Index ID: #-

## How to Remove a LinkedIn Profile: A Step by Step Guide

LinkedIn has become an essential platform for professionals, recruiters, and businesses alike. Yet, there are moments when you might want to delete or remove your LinkedIn profile—whether you're switching careers, protecting your privacy, or simply decluttering your online presence. This guide covers everything you need to know about **how to remove a LinkedIn profile**, from the official deletion process to alternative privacy settings that can make your profile invisible without fully deleting it.

### Why You Might Want to Remove Your LinkedIn Profile

There are several legitimate reasons for wanting to remove a LinkedIn account:

- Career Transition – Moving to a new industry or company may make your current profile irrelevant.
- Privacy Concerns – You might want to limit the amount of personal data that's publicly accessible.
- Professional Reputation – If you have a controversial or outdated profile, deletion can protect your brand.
- Data Minimization – Some people prefer to keep only essential online footprints.
- Security Risks – Removing a profile can reduce the risk of credential stuffing or phishing attacks.

### What Happens When You Delete Your LinkedIn Account?

LinkedIn's deletion process is designed to be straightforward yet thorough. When you delete your account:

- Your profile and all associated data (connections, endorsements, recommendations) are permanently removed after a 30 day grace period.
- LinkedIn keeps a backup of your data for 30 days, during which you can recover the account if you change your mind.
- All content you posted, such as articles or comments, is deleted from the platform.
- LinkedIn may retain minimal data for legal or regulatory reasons, but it won't be publicly accessible.

### Before You Delete: Things to Consider

Deleting a LinkedIn profile is irreversible after the 30 day period. Here are some important checkpoints before you proceed:

1. Backup Your Data – Use LinkedIn's data export feature to download your profile, connections, and messages.
2. Notify Your Network – Send a farewell message or update your status so your contacts aren't surprised.
3. Update Job Applications – If you're currently applying for jobs, remove your LinkedIn URL from resumes and applications.
4. Check Third Party Integrations – Remove LinkedIn from any external services (e.g., job boards, CRM tools).
5. Review Privacy Settings – If you only want to hide your profile, consider adjusting privacy options instead of deleting.

### Step by Step: How to Delete Your LinkedIn Profile

Follow these precise steps to permanently remove your LinkedIn account. The process is consistent across desktop and mobile browsers.

Start by signing into your LinkedIn account. Click on the **Me** icon at the top right corner, then select **Settings & Privacy** from the dropdown.

Within the Settings & Privacy panel, click on the **Account preferences** tab. Scroll down to the bottom of the page until you find the **Delete your LinkedIn account** section.

Click the **Delete your account**button. LinkedIn will prompt you with a warning that the deletion is permanent after 30 days. Confirm the action by entering your password again.

After confirming, LinkedIn will send a confirmation email to the address associated with your account. Follow the link in the email to finalize the deletion. Your profile will remain accessible to you for 30 days in case you change your mind.

After the 30 day grace period, LinkedIn permanently erases your profile. If you never accessed your account again, the deletion will complete automatically.

### Alternative: Deactivating vs. Deleting

Sometimes you may want to hide your profile from public view without permanently deleting it. LinkedIn offers a "deactivate" option that keeps your data intact but makes your profile invisible to others.

- Deactivation – Your profile becomes private, but you can reactivate it later by simply logging back in.
- Deletion – Your profile and all associated data are permanently removed after 30 days.

To deactivate, follow the same path to **Settings & Privacy** and toggle the **Profile visibility**setting to "Off." This is a good middle ground if you're unsure about a permanent deletion.

### Removing Your LinkedIn Profile from Search Engines

Even after deleting or deactivating your LinkedIn profile, search engines may still index old URLs. Here's how to remove them:

Go to Google Search Console and submit a removal request for the specific LinkedIn URL. You'll need to verify ownership of the account.

Bing offers a similar tool: Bing Webmaster Tools. Submit a request for the LinkedIn profile URL.

LinkedIn's robots.txt file disallows web crawlers from indexing certain pages. However, you can't modify it. The best approach is to rely on search engine removal tools.

### Deleting a LinkedIn Company Page

If you manage a company page and wish to remove it, the process is slightly different:

1. Navigate to your company page.
2. Click the Admin tools dropdown.
3. Select Delete Page.
4. Confirm the deletion by entering your password.

Just like personal profiles, company pages are permanently removed after a 30 day waiting period.

### How to Request Removal of Personal Data from LinkedIn

Under privacy regulations such as GDPR, you have the right to request the deletion of personal data. To do so:

- Go to Settings & Privacy !' Data privacy.
- Select Delete data and follow the prompts.
- Alternatively, send a written request to privacy@linkedin.com specifying the data you want removed.

LinkedIn typically responds within 30 days, but the process may vary by jurisdiction.

### Common Mistakes to Avoid When Removing a LinkedIn Profile

Below are typical pitfalls that can lead to incomplete deletion or data retention:

- Not Downloading Data – Failing to export your profile can result in loss of important information.
- Leaving Connected Accounts – Third party services may still reference your LinkedIn ID.
- Ignoring the 30 Day Window – If you log back in during the grace period, your account will be restored.
- Not Updating External Links – Resume, email signatures, and personal websites may still point to your LinkedIn profile.
- Assuming Deactivation = Deletion – Deactivation only hides your profile; it doesn't remove your data from LinkedIn.

### FAQs About Removing a LinkedIn Profile

A: Yes, but only within the 30 day grace period. After that, LinkedIn permanently erases the account.

A: LinkedIn does not send out mass notifications, but your connections will notice that you're no longer visible on the platform.

A: Not automatically. You must use Google Search Console to request removal of cached pages.

A: If you suspect unauthorized activity, first secure your account by changing passwords and enabling two factor authentication. If you still wish to delete, follow the standard deletion steps.

A: No. LinkedIn only allows full account deletion or deactivation. To remove specific sections, manually edit or delete the content.

### Tips for Maintaining a Clean Online Presence After Deletion

Once you've removed your LinkedIn profile, you might still want to manage your digital footprint. Here are some best practices:

1. Regularly Review Privacy Settings – Even on other platforms, keep settings up to date.
2. Use a Professional Email Alias – Separate work and personal communications.
3. Monitor Public Mentions – Tools like Google Alerts can notify you if your name appears online.
4. Secure Your Social Media – Enable two factor authentication on all accounts.

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