

# Cyber Tales by Tenali

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## About this issue

CISO Office is pleased to present a new fortnightly series - 'Cyber Tales by Tenali', comprising of detailed portrayal of recent cyber incident and best practices with the help of a few characters.

## Meet the Characters

### Tinku -

- ◆ An innocent & unsuspecting Internet user...
- ◆ Unaware of risks & threats in digital world...
- ◆ Just the boy next door



### Mogambo -

- ◆ A cunning cyber fraudster, identity thief...
- ◆ Master in conning users with his impersonating skills...
- ◆ Trick users by exploiting their lack of awareness



### Tenali -

- ◆ A Cyber Skill Expert & *the narrator of the story*
- ◆ Advises gullible users & helps to recover them from cyber events
- ◆ Based on Tenali Rama, the witty and humorous historic character



### Chutki -

- ◆ Tinku's Friend



## Facebook Profile Cloning Fraud

Facebook users have become soft targets for cyber criminals amid the pandemic. While the lockdown has confined people indoors and triggered an increase in their time spent over Facebook and other social media platforms, it has also led to increased activity by cyber fraudsters.

Cyber experts have always been warning citizens to be sceptical about sharing sensitive information in social media. Yet, many a times users have been falling in the trap of identity thieves due to their sophisticated and well planned strategies. Sometimes, it is also aided by the users unsafe social media practices.



Today, I will tell you what happened with Tinku due to his **unsafe** social media practices.

### Tinku got caught in the web...

One day Chutki got a friend request from Tinku in Facebook. She was wondering why Tinku has sent her a friend request when they were already connected on Facebook? She immediately called Tinku.

Hi Tinku... Why you created the new profile in Facebook?



Tinku was surprised and on checking the account he found that a profile has been created on Facebook containing his profile picture. Few of his



## Contd... Facebook Profile Cloning Fraud

friends were also in the friend list of the evil twin. Tinku got worried.



*If Tinku has not created then who created the profile?*

This is Facebook Profile Cloning, a social engineering technique, where fraudsters like Mogambo create a fake Facebook account using publicly available info of people like Tinku and send friend requests to Tinku's friends.

Once Tinku's friends accept the request being unaware of the fact that this is a cloned account, Mogambo's real intention come into the picture. He starts sending messages to Tinku's friends requesting monetary help under various context, like, job loss or ICU admission in hospital. Mogambo even used morphed pictures of ICU to trick Tinku's friends.

*What should Tinku do now?*

Since Tinku doesn't have direct access to the cloned account, he cannot directly remove the account from Facebook. However, he can mitigate the effects.

*How?*

- ◆ **Report the fake account to Facebook:** Facebook has tools to report accounts pretending to be someone else. Upon verification, Facebook deletes the fake account.
- ◆ **Ask friends to report the fake account to Facebook:** Reporting from multiple people may prompt Facebook to take down the fake account faster.
- ◆ **Warn Facebook Friends:** Make a

public post to let friends know about cloning of account and not to accept friend requests from it.

### How to report a fake account in Facebook

1. Go to the fake profile on Facebook
2. Click the three dots on the cover photo
3. Choose "Find Support or Report profile"
4. Choose "Pretending to Be Someone" and follow the prompts

*Why Tinku became the victim?*

- ◆ Tinku is a social media geek.
- ◆ Habitual of posting daily activities in Facebook.
- ◆ Friend list was 'Public'
- ◆ Profile & posts were visible to 'Everyone'
- ◆ Didn't use a profile picture guard
- ◆ Posted phone number in the 'About' section

*What may be Mogambo's intentions?*

- ◆ Send malicious links to Tinku's friends to spread virus and malware
- ◆ Request money from Tinku's friends by presenting fake story
- ◆ Ask personal information from Tinku's friends
- ◆ Harm Tinku's reputation by sharing inappropriate posts on his newsfeed or with his friends, family and co-workers.
- ◆ Might attempt to even shut down Tinku's real profile as the cloned account.



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### *How Tinku can check if his account has been cloned?*

- One of his Facebook friend tells him about a new friend request in Tinku's name.
- Tinku searches his own name periodically in Facebook for a duplicate profile with his picture and other info.

### *How to Stay Safe ?*

- ♦ Be cautious while sharing personal information and photos in social media.
- ♦ Increase privacy settings & keep friend-list private.
- ♦ Be careful while accepting friend requests from profiles already in friend-list. If it is a fake account, report the account and also let the friend know they have been cloned.
- ♦ Always ensure genuineness of sender before responding to messages received in social media.
- ♦ Alert friends immediately if you find out that your clone profile has been created and report the profile immediately.
- ♦ Keep phone numbers of Cyber Crime Police Station handy for prompt reporting.

#### **Hide Your Friend-list**

One of the best ways to prevent such scams is to make sure you hide your friend's list from public, prying eyes:

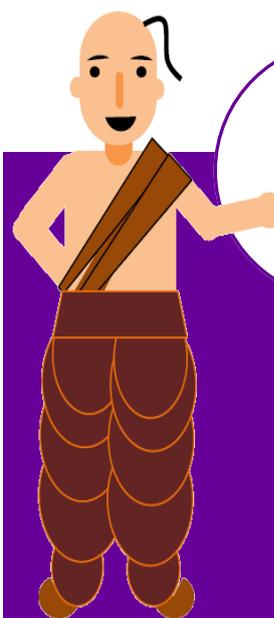
1. Go to your profile
2. Click Friends options (below your cover photo)
3. Select Edit Privacy from the menu
4. Select an audience that is not Public (i.e. Friends Only)

#### **Facebook Privacy Settings Guide**

The more information and photos you share using public settings, the more legitimate a cloned account will appear to those receiving a friend request. Controlling your privacy settings on Facebook is the key to preventing your account from being cloned.

**Avoid Public Settings:** Increase your privacy settings to avoid scammers from viewing your posts:

1. Click in the top right corner of your profile
2. Select Settings & choose Privacy Settings and Tools to review your privacy options
  - Control who can see your posts
  - Limit access to posted photos
  - View your own profile as Public to see what people not in your Friend list will see
  - Review your privacy options on a regular basis



*Tenali's  
Wisdom*

*Use Social  
Media  
cautiously.*

***We welcome your valuable suggestions / feedback at [ciso.office@ucobank.co.in](mailto:ciso.office@ucobank.co.in)***