ASK ELLEN – when a potential employer wants your social media login info

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Today’s Q comes from a Palmer graduate and this one is a hot topic lately – I would love to hear your thoughts in the comments below!

Q: [R]ecently I’ve been reading that employers are asking on interviews for the candidate’s facebook login information (username and password). If the candidate refuses to give up the information then they lose the position. My question is this: How should candidates answer the facebook/social media question?

A: I have been hearing about this too, lately, that some employers are doing this. I myself would not, under any circumstances, give my login information for Facebook to an employer or potential employer, nor would I consider working for an employer that demanded something so unreasonable. Not only would you be giving a stranger or near-stranger access to your personal information (as well as your friends’ information), but that person could then post things on your account or do anything else he/she wanted to, with your account. I would strongly advise any job hunter to simply say “No”.

If pressed for a reason, I would say, “That is my private information.” And if that were not enough, I would point out that it is the private information of others too. I would also ask why the employer wanted that information but no matter what reason given, I would not give out the login info.

Some articles/blog entries about this:


http://www.forbes.com/sites/tykiisel/2012/03/20/not-just-no-hell-no/

http://www.askamanager.org/2012/01/when-a-prospective-employer-wants-your-social-media-passwords.html


3/24/12 ETA: What Facebook has to say about this http://www.wired.com/wiredenterprise/2012/03/facebook-password-employers/
Thank you and good luck!

Ellen Mehling
Director, Westchester Program and Internships
ellen.mehling@liu.edu