

## How to customize your Facebook Status Message

Status Message plays an important role on Facebook. I am often asked about keeping business and personal information separate on Facebook. This especially puzzles people who believe that any status message they share will automatically go to every friend they have.

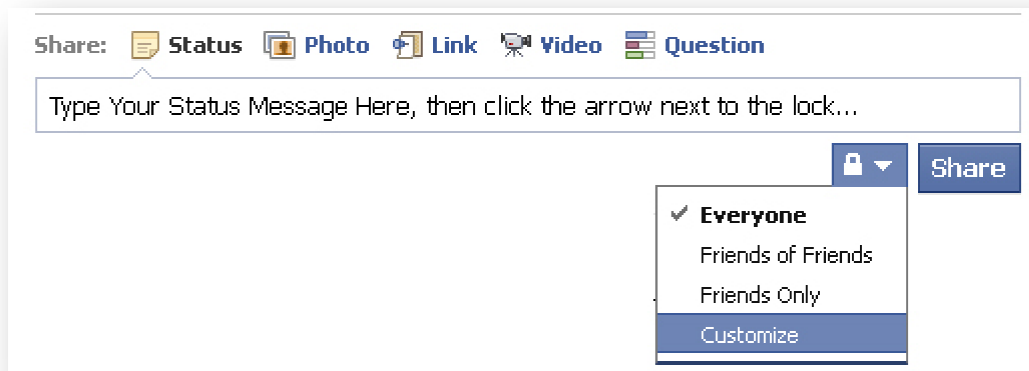
Facebook actually allows you to limit who sees your status message, link, photo, event, etc. You can:

- Limit to a specific Friend List (my favorite.)
- Limit to specific Friends by name.
- Exclude a Friend List or specific Friends from the message.

Here is how to do it. You may also want to check out the Post: [How To Make Friend Lists in Facebook.](#)

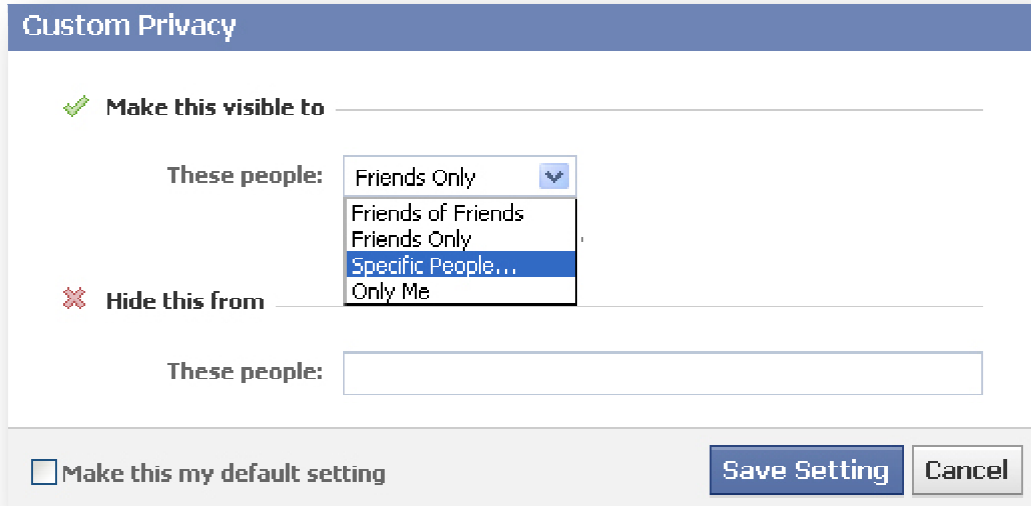
Enter your status and click the lock icon immediately down, next to the 'Share' button as shown in the picture

- You will get a drop down box with four options. Click 'Customize'



Enter your status message, then choose Customize.

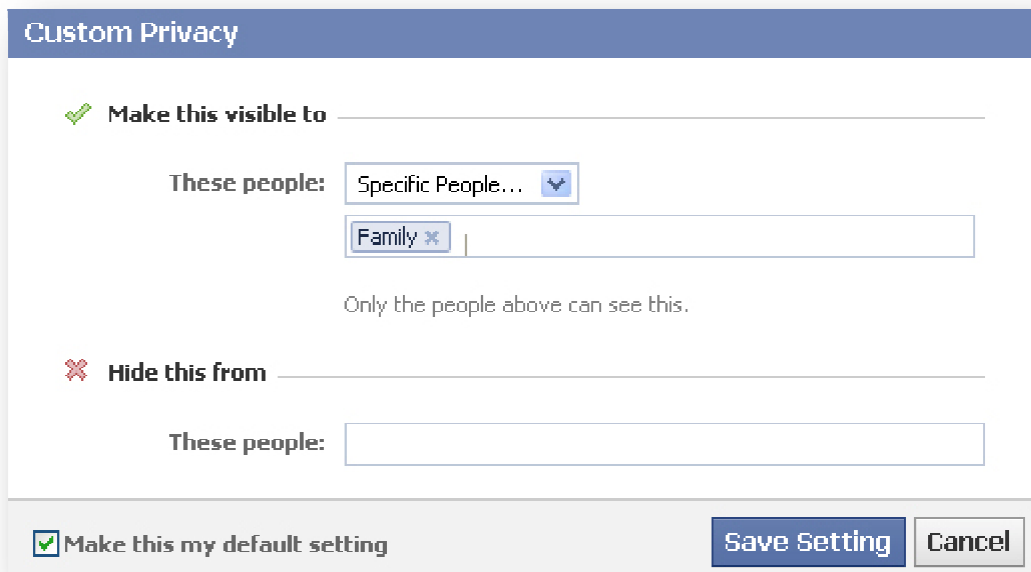
- A pop-up window appears and from the drop down next to 'these people' select 'specific people' option.



The screenshot shows a 'Custom Privacy' dialog box. At the top, there is a green checkmark icon and the text 'Make this visible to'. Below this, there is a section labeled 'These people:' with a dropdown menu. The dropdown menu is open, showing five options: 'Friends Only', 'Friends of Friends', 'Friends Only', 'Specific People...', and 'Only Me'. The 'Specific People...' option is highlighted in blue. Below the dropdown menu, there is a red 'X' icon and the text 'Hide this from', followed by an empty text input field. At the bottom of the dialog, there is a checkbox labeled 'Make this my default setting' which is currently unchecked. To the right of the checkbox are two buttons: 'Save Setting' and 'Cancel'.

Choose Specific People to limit Friends by name or by Friend List.

- Start typing the name of your Friends to whom you want that status should appear in the feed, or...
- ...you can add a Friend List. Just start typing the name of the list, and it should appear as an option.



The screenshot shows the 'Custom Privacy' dialog box. The 'Make this visible to' section is checked. In the 'These people:' dropdown menu, 'Specific People...' is selected. Below the dropdown menu, there is a text input field containing 'Family' with a small 'x' icon to its right. Below this input field, the text 'Only the people above can see this.' is displayed. The 'Hide this from' section is unchecked. At the bottom, the 'Make this my default setting' checkbox is now checked. The 'Save Setting' and 'Cancel' buttons are still present.

Type the name of the Friend or Friend List and then choose from the options provided. In this example, I am choosing to post a message to a Friend List I have called "Family."

If you choose "Make this my default setting," all of your status messages will be limited until you change it.

NOTE: Selected friends will never know that you have customized that status to appear in their feed. Rather it appears as a usual status update from you.

## **How to hide a status message from selected Friends?**

- Enter your status and click the lock icon immediately down, next to the 'Share' button as shown in the picture
- You will get a drop down box with four options and click the 'Customize.'
- A pop-up window appears and at the bottom of that window you have the option of 'Hide this from'. Start typing the names from whom you want to hide.
- You can make these settings as default by checking the option 'Make this default setting in the bottom'

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