How to delete your Twitter history

Over the last few months, Elon Musk's X, which was formerly known as Twitter, has been a bubbling cauldron of strange advertising decisions, continuous upheavals, and weird overflows of testosterone.

Not that Twitter has ever been calm waters. Before Musk, Twitter was the social media world's most reliable double-edged sword. One minute, you were retweeting a funny meme account and enjoying some wholesome discussion about your current TV binge fixation, and the next, you were being buried by a harassment campaign or finding your day ruined by a thread that makes you want to throw your laptop through the window.

Either way, if you're now on X or were ever on Twitter, it's a good idea to take precautions with your posting history since, even if you've moved on to one or more other social networks, it's possible that somebody will unearth one of your old tweets and create a firestorm without you even being aware it's happening. (And while it's not necessarily bad to be able to ignore something like that, it's probably a good idea to know when it's erupting.)

So regardless of whether you've cut Twitter out of your life, the best protection you can provide yourself is the deletion of your Twitter history. Here's where to start if you're interested in nuking your timeline and keeping future tweets from falling into the internet's vindictive void of posterity.

a:hover]:text-black [&>a:hover]:shadow-underline-black dark:[&>a:hover]:text-gray-e9 dark:[&>a:hover]:shadow-underline-gray-63 [&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-13 dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-63″>*It’s not hard to get an archive of your data.*

Eventually, you’ll get an email from Twitter inviting you to download your archive. It will arrive in a ZIP file, which contains a folder in which you’ll find an HTML file. Clicking on that will open a webpage in your browser window for scrolling through your entire Twitter history, together with a list of JavaScript data files.

a:hover]:text-black [&>a:hover]:shadow-underline-black

dark:[&>a:hover]:text-gray-e9 dark:[&>a:hover]:shadow-underline-gray-63 [&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-13 dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-63″>*Deleting a single tweet is not a problem. It’s deleting them in bulk that can be problematic.*