

Study of Use, Privacy and Dependence on Social Networks by Students in the Ecuadorian Universities

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Abstract. Universities have raised concern about the increasing use of social networks by their students, because they spend more and more time on them, than on their own college. The purpose of this paper is to present the results of the analysis done on the increased use of social networks, and specifically in relation to the experience with security and privacy. This allows us to determine the level of extreme dependence on its use. To do this research, we have designed a series of surveys, which were used with students of two Ecuadorian universities. The data were tabulated and statistically calculated, allowing us to identify which the main uses in social networks are, and gives some recommendations within the scope of these results, providing guidance for the use of these services in a more efficient and safe way.

Keywords: Social networks · Guide · University students · Internet · Privacy · Addiction

1 Introduction

In recent years, most of Latin American governments have undertaken an arduous effort to increase Internet connectivity and the use of social networks in homes, in order to create new opportunities for reducing the social gap. For example, the Colombia's National Statistics Department (DANE) has announced that in 2015, 67.7 % of Colombians of 5 or more years have used the Internet to access social networks [1]. Social networks allow people to be notified and informed; it gives people the opportunity to express ideas and feelings, especially meeting people from other cities or even different countries. They are considered a powerful tool that can even topple entire political systems, through decentralized coordination of protests [2].