Reading
"[Beware: Potential Employers Are Watching You...](#)" (PDF)
"[How Employers Use Social Media To Screen Applicants](#)" (Infographic)
"[More than half of employers won't hire someone they can't find online](#)
[(Links to an external site.)](#)
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Assignment
Employers checking the backgrounds of current and potential employers is nothing new, but the Internet makes it trivially easy to examine someone's personal life. Whether you agree with this practice or not, it is extremely common (one of the readings put the number at around 40%, another puts it at 91%), and it is likely you will encounter the practice as a potential hire, or as managers making hiring decisions.

The first article was written in 2012 and deals with specific red flags employers may look for.

The next reading is a detailed infographic that tries to visualize the extent of the practice.

The last reading is just a kick in the teeth.

Write a short (about 150- to 250-word) response answering the following question: if you worked for a company hiring new employees, and you WERE going to check their Facebook or other online activity, what sorts of things would you look for? What would be a red flag for you? What would be a positive sign? Would decline to hire an otherwise qualified applicant based solely on something in their private online activity? Finally, have you or anyone you know had an experience with an employer examining your online activity? You don't have to talk about it if it makes you uncomfortable, but if you don't mind sharing, let us know.

Again, the question is not whether you SHOULD snoop on job candidates (I'm against it, personally), but if you HAD TO as part of your responsibilities as a manager making hiring decisions.