Developments in photo-sharing service Instagram

The Associated Press

This week, Instagram announced new policies to reflect its growth and new ownership. Some of the changes regarding how members' photos may be used in ads sparked complaints on Twitter and elsewhere. Here's a look at key developments in Instagram's service.

— April 3: Instagram, a photo-sharing social network accessed on smartphones, arrives on Android devices after starting out as an app available only on Apple gadgets such as the iPhone.

— April 9: Facebook Inc. announces plans to buy Instagram for $1 billion in cash and stock.

— May 18: Facebook's stock begins trading publicly. After a small increase on its first day, the stock price tumbles amid concerns about the company's ability to keep growing revenue.

— Aug. 22: Federal government clears Instagram deal. Because of Facebook's falling stock price, the $1 billion cash-and-stock deal drops to about $750 million.

— Aug. 31: Facebook closes on its Instagram deal, which by then is worth about $715 million — $300 million of it in cash and the rest in stock.

— Nov. 5: Instagram expands to the Web, though in limited form. Previously, users' profiles existed only on Instagram's mobile applications. With the change, users have a website with a profile photo, bio and a selection of the snapshots they've recently shared on Instagram, though they can't follow other users or upload photos.

— Monday: Instagram announces new terms of service and privacy policy to take effect Jan. 16. Users and privacy advocates complain over Instagram's new assertion that it may now receive payments from businesses to use your photos, user name and other data "in connection with paid or sponsored content or promotions, without any compensation to you."

— Tuesday: Following the outcry, Instagram says it will remove language suggesting that users' photos could appear in advertisements.

Source URL (retrieved on *12/19/2013 - 4:26am*):
http://www.ecnmag.com/news/2012/12/developments-photo-sharing-service-instagram?qt-most_popular=0