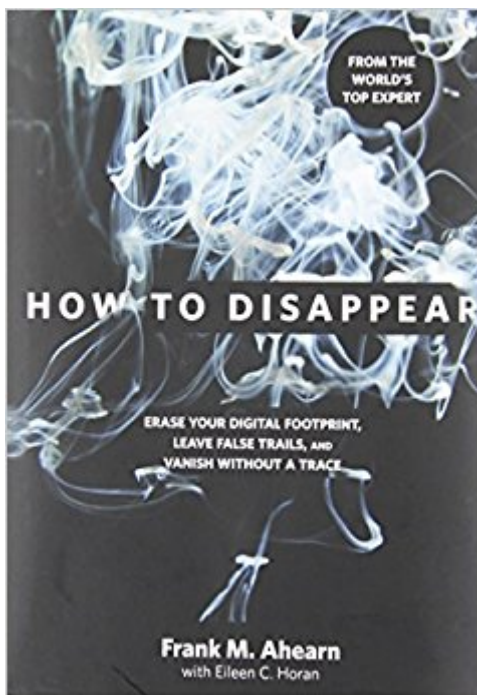


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# How To Disappear: Erase Your Digital Footprint, Leave False Trails, And Vanish Without A Trace



## Synopsis

How to Disappear is the authoritative and comprehensive guide for people who seek to protect their privacy as well as for anyone who's ever entertained the fantasy of disappearing—whether actually dropping out of sight or by eliminating the traceable evidence of their existence. Written by the world's leading experts on finding people and helping people avoid being found, How to Disappear covers everything from tools for disappearing to discovering and eliminating the nearly invisible tracks and clues we tend to leave wherever we go. Learn the three keys to disappearing, all about your electronic footprints, the dangers and opportunities of social networking sites, and how to disappear from a stalker. Frank Ahearn and Eileen Horan provide field-tested methods for maintaining privacy, as well as tactics and strategies for protecting personal information and preventing identity theft. They explain and illustrate key tactics such as misinformation (destroying all the data known about you); disinformation (creating fake trails); and, finally, reformation—the act of getting you from point A to point B without leaving clues. Ahearn illustrates every step with real-life stories of his fascinating career, from undercover work to nab thieving department store employees to a stint as a private investigator; and, later, as a career “skip tracer” who finds people who don't want to be found. In 1997, when news broke of President Bill Clinton's dalliance with a White House intern, Ahearn was hired to find her. When Oscar statuettes were stolen in Beverly Hills, Ahearn pinpointed a principal in the caper to help solve the case. When Russell Crowe threw a telephone at a hotel clerk in 2005, Ahearn located the victim and hid him from the media. An indispensable resource not just for those determined to become utterly anonymous, but also for just about anyone in the brave new world of on-line information, How to Disappear sums up Ahearn's dual philosophy: Don't break the law, but know how to protect yourself.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"It may shock the hell out of you. It did me. I couldn't put this book down, finding out all of the ways anyone could get their hands on information about any of us. You're more vulnerable than you may think." - Tammy Chase, Chicago Sun-Times

Frank M. Ahearn built his first career by finding people who didn't want to be found—from philandering celebrities to a certain White House intern (Monica Lewinsky) before anybody had heard of her, as well as countless cheaters, frauds, and bad guys. Using the "skip tracer" techniques he developed in the process, Ahearn embarked on a second career counseling those who wanted not to be found. If you've ever fantasized about disappearing—literally dropping out of sight or just eliminating the traceable evidence of your existence—How to Disappear is your guide. In a world-wise, straight-talking, wryly humorous narrative, Ahearn provides field-tested tips, tools, and techniques for maintaining privacy, as well as strategies for protecting personal information and preventing identity theft. You'll learn key tactics such as misinformation (destroying all the data known about you), disinformation (creating fake trails), and reformation (getting where you want to be without leaving clues). Throughout, Ahearn shares real-life stories of his fascinating career—from nabbing adulterous celebrities to helping abuse victims find safety. An indispensable resource not just for those determined to be anonymous, but for almost anyone in the brave new world of online information, How to Disappear sums up Ahearn's dual philosophy: Don't break the law, but know how to protect yourself.

While most of the social engineering discussed in this book is moot by now as things have changed, or as privacy has become more the focus of many companies, a large fraction of them would probably still work, especially with smaller businesses and other people who are more likely to have paper records or weak databases, lacking the ability to really probe someone. Google alone is probably enough to defeat some of them, if the people you're attempting to talk to have common sense. Either way, I enjoyed the "skip tracer" stories from the past more than the techniques themselves, though I did enjoy both.

Frankly its the same info as authors other books...alot of it is common sense.i didn't find it informative at all..in fact I read half of it and skimmed the rest reluctantly.save your money.

Not that I want to disappear, but what caught my eye was the phrase in the title "Erase Your Digital Footprint". Written by an individual who finds people for a living (skip tracer), I was amazed by the depth and length people would go to--or need to go to--to avoid being found as explained by someone who makes use of all the points made to make a living. Very interesting read for me.

First thing, remove all publicly accessible posts from online sources such as forums, online message or image boards, revie-.... um... crap.

I could not put this book down. It is so fascinating! I bought it strictly out of curiosity and just to read for fun. But this author is so knowledgeable and talented! To be honest, when I first start reading it. I thought the author didn't really have any special knowledge, and that I would simply be wasting my time by reading this book. But the more i kept reading, the more I thought, "Wow, this guy is good!".I don't have any plans on disappearing (if I did, would I say so?) but this book has taught me a lot even for practical purposes (i.e. protecting yourself from identity theft). And if you are planning on disappearing for whatever reasons, the knowledge that is shared in this book is priceless!The book starts off with the author explaining what his career was like as a "skip-tracer" and how he could track down people. He explains the process. Then after that, the book gets really interesting when he starts talking about what YOU should do so that even people like himself, or "skip-tracers", couldn't find you. You could never come up with some of the ideas he has for remaining off the radar on your own. I might even say it is a bit mind-boggling!Now, this book has left me with the desire to read even more books on the subject!

This info is a bit dated. The author just tells you basically what he would of done to find you when he was a 'skip tracer'. Unfortunately many of the things he got away with(eg calling cc companys to get your last transaction) would be much more difficult in this day and age. Also, many of the methods would not work against a more sophisticated attacker(eg govts). I wish I had not bought this.

An interesting read with many great suggestions.

Not very useful for the layman and full of impractical advice.

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