



Forums:

Facts:

On forums and discussion groups people from all over the world connect and share their progress, knowledge, ideas, and discuss many other matters, in order to make it easier for people to access a treasure trove of information in a simple way.

These forums are very wide-ranging and diverse. They include business groups catering to people who work in a specific industry or trade, as well as less formal groups that focus on politics, practical advice and all types of general topics.

Below are a few important points about these forums:

1. When one joins a forum, he must be certain that the content — i.e., both the written words and the images — are appropriate and do not contain any potential prohibitions.
2. As we explained previously, there is a prohibition of *moshav leitzim* and *al tifnu*. One must be very careful that the forums he uses do not border on these prohibitions.
3. Even if the content is useful to the user, he must be very careful when reading anything written anonymously. When a writer does not use his real name, he is freer to write inappropriate or even heretical things. This is mostly relevant to non-business-related forums, where the topics discussed are not limited to one area and can vary greatly. As explained previously, reading heretical ideas is strictly forbidden. This is true even if the heretical ideas are not expressed explicitly, as the author's views often manifest themselves between the lines and can have a more insidious effect on the reader. When the reader finally does realize the danger, it is often too late. For this reason, one must be very careful when using platforms on which users post anonymously.

To conclude our section of the *halachos* of technology, it is always important to remember that technology advances and changes by the minute. Therefore, the most important thing is to know the fundamental concepts of *halachah* and *hashkafah* and keep them in mind at all times so that one will know how to approach new technological advancements and use them according to the Torah's values. In this way, one will always be on guard to avoid new spiritual dangers and to stay away from them.