Recent discoveries regarding the misuse and improper storage of Facebook user information have shined a light on how much data Facebook obtains from those that use it. With this in mind, there are options to better control user information shared on Facebook:

Restricting Facebook from Sharing Your Information-
- This is the choice that probably works best for the majority of people.

- Step One: Access Facebook's App page via the Settings menu to see how many apps you have connected to your account. From here, you can determine the services you want to remove at the top of the page or disable all of them via Apps, Website and Plugins > Edit.

- Step Two: Access Settings > Apps > Apps Others Use, and uncheck the boxes you do not want those apps to access. This includes your Bio, Hometown or Family and Relationships. Doing this prevents people on Facebook that have the ability to see that information, from bringing it with them when they use apps.

- Be aware: taking these steps will prevent you from logging into apps using your Facebook account anymore. This means that you will need to sign up for each service directly and will then have to use a unique sign-in for each.

- Be aware: apps you have already installed could still possess your user information after disabling the feature. This means that you will have to contact each app individually, and request that they remove your user information. Bear in mind, Facebook does not provide a process to contact the apps.

Deactivating Your Facebook Account-
- This is the choice for people that are upset with Facebook's information gathering policies….but want the possibility of accessing their accounts again.

- The One and Only Step for Deactivating Your Account:
Access Facebook's page dedicated to deactivating or deleting your account: Quick Help Menu > Help Center > Managing Your Account > Deactivating or Deleting Your Account > How Do I Deactivate My Account?

- Be aware: this choice may result in some information still being seen by other users.

- Be aware: you can save a copy of everything you have ever posted to Facebook: Settings > General > Download a Copy of Your Facebook Data.

Deleting Your Facebook Account-
- This is the choice only for people that absolutely do not want to or have to use Facebook for any reason.

- The One and Only Step for Deleting Your Account: Access Facebook's page dedicated to deactivating or deleting your account: Quick Help Menu > Help Center > Managing Your Account > Deactivating or Deleting Your Account > How do I permanently delete my account? From there, just follow the easy-to-follow directions. Bear in mind, you cannot undo this if you change your mind after the fact.

- Be aware: the process of wiping the associated data is not instantaneous. Per Facebook:

"It may take up to 90 days from the beginning of the deletion process to delete all of the things you've posted, like your photos, status updates or other data stored in backup systems. While we are deleting this information, it is inaccessible to other people using Facebook."

- Be aware: third-party apps may still have access to information after your account has been permanently deleted. This means that you may have to contact each app individually, and request that they remove your user information.

Yurieff, Kaya. Fed up with Facebook? Here's How to Protect Your Data, CNN Money, 21 Mar. 2018, 4:37 PM, http://money.cnn.com/2018/03/20/technology/how-to-protect-facebook-data/index.html?iid=EL.