Twitter

What is it?

Twitter is a micro blogging social networking service which allows users to send and receive text-based posts (tweets) of up to 140 characters online. It is also possible to use Twitter's Vine app which allows users to embed a six second video into their tweet. Twitter currently has around 500 million users, of which 200 million have an active profile.

Twitter can be accessed directly through a website: www.twitter.com or by using an app which is available for different devices and platforms.
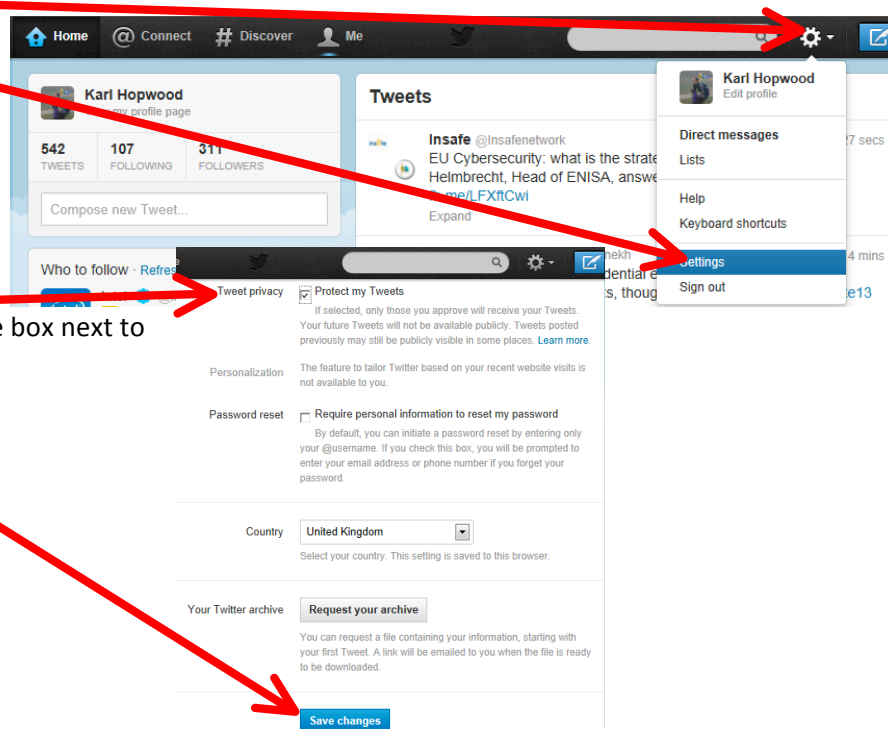
Privacy

It is important to know that **twitter is public by default and tweets are searchable unless they are protected by the user** – this means that anyone who searches for information on Twitter using an app or website will be able to find tweets.

The nature of Twitter means that many users want to share their thoughts, ideas and opinions with the world. However you may wish to control who is able to access the content that you upload and in order to do this, you need to "protect your tweets".

1. Go to your profile.
2. Click on the settings icon.
3. Choose "settings".

4. Scroll down to tweet privacy and make sure there is a tick in the box next to "Protect my Tweets".
5. Remember to save changes.

It is important to remember that followers can re-tweet protected tweets – so think carefully about who you allow to follow you! Having lots of followers may make you look popular, but is not always the safest way to use Twitter.