

Smart and Safe in Cyberspace Social Networking 101

National Crime Prevention Council
2006



Goal of the Presentation

To inform communities of the emerging trend of social networking and to provide safety tips to help our children and youth socialize safely online



Objectives of the Presentation

- Define social networking
- Learn at least three facts about online socializing
- View examples of social networking sites
- Learn safety tips for youth
- Learn safety tips for parents to share with their children
- Discover the resources available for safe social networking





What is social networking?



Social networking sites provide teens and young adults with a virtual environment where they share stories, pictures, videos, and participate in chat rooms with friends and acquaintances.



By providing information about yourself using blogs, chat rooms, email, or instant messaging, you can communicate either within a limited community, or with the world at large.



Types of Social Networking Sites

- General sites geared toward teens
- Schools and colleges
- Cultures (e.g., African American, Hispanic, European, Canadian)
- Business
- Music and videos
- Sports (e.g., football and golf)



Examples of Social Networking Sites

- Myspace.com - general
- Classmates.com - school, college, work, and the military
- Reunion.com - locating family and friends
- Friendster.com - general
- MSN Spaces - blogging, networking, and communities
- Piczo.com - teenagers



Facts and Figures



- As of 2005, there were more than 300 known social networking sites.

Source: wikipedia.org

- One in five child Internet users has received unwanted sexual solicitations and only one in four has told his or her parents.
- One in 17 children reported being threatened or harassed while using the Internet.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice



Facts and Figures continued

- About 45,000,000 American children ages 10 to 17 are currently estimated to be online, spending hours everyday at their computers.
- 60 percent of teens have received email or instant messages from perfect strangers and 63 percent of those teens responded.
- At any given time, there are 3.4 million chat room users.

Source: Pew Internet Project



Facts and Figures continued

- 94 percent of young people access the Internet from home.

Source: Young Canadians in a Wired World research project

- Millions of teenagers own their own blogs. Over half of all blogs are maintained by people ages 13-19

Source: Georgetown University

- 26 percent of teens say they surf the net unsupervised.

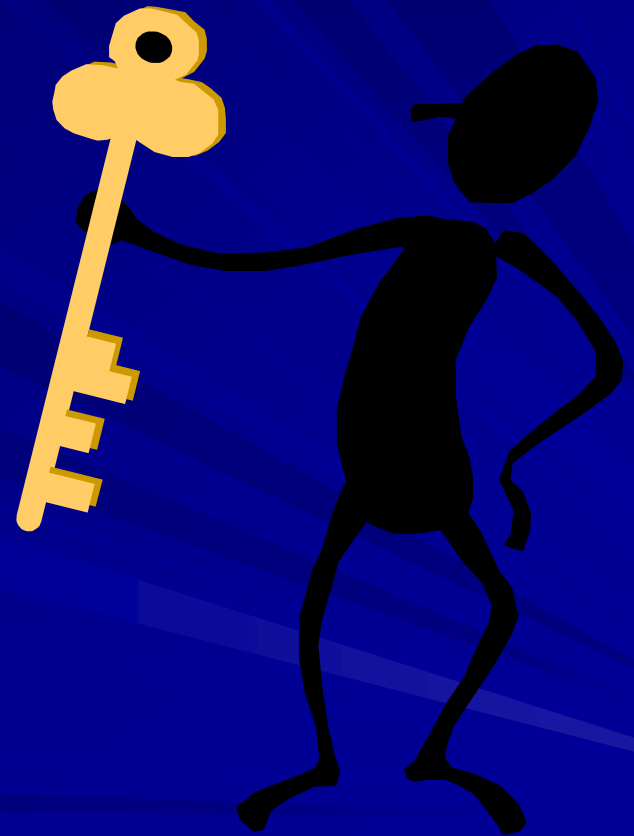
Source: LA Times

- 31 percent say their parents check their social network sites.

Source: LA Times



Tips for Safe Online Social Networking



Tips for Socializing Safely

- Think about how different sites work before deciding to join a site.
- Keep some control over the information you post.
- Keep vital information to yourself.
- Make sure your screen name doesn't reveal too much about you.



Tips for Socializing Safely Online

continued

- Post only information that you are comfortable with others seeing and knowing about you.
- Remember, once your information is posted, you can't take it back. Someone can forward this information and millions of people have access.
- Consider not posting your picture.
- Don't flirt with strangers online.



Source: Federal Trade Commission – www.ftc.gov

Tips for Parents



Tips for Parents

- Use the Internet with your children.
- Teach your children never to give out personal information.
- Instruct your child never to plan a face-to-face meeting with online acquaintances.
- Establish clear ground rules for Internet use within your family.
- Tell your children not to respond if they receive offensive or dangerous email, chat requests, or other types of communication and to tell you when this occurs.



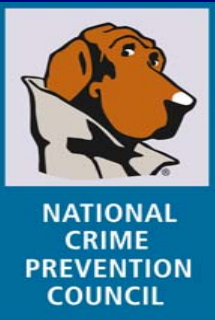
Source: GetNetWise

Tips for Parents continued

- Place your computer in a room that's open and accessible to all family members (not in your child's room).
- Consider installing software filters that prevent your child from entering personal information.
- Consider installing monitoring software that prevents your child from entering personal information.
- Many networking sites have valuable safety information.



Tips for Youth



Tips for Youth

- Remember, your profile is on a public space.
- People aren't always who they say they are.
- Harassment, hate speech, and inappropriate content should be reported. Tell your parents or an adult if this happens.
- Don't mislead people into thinking that you're older or younger than you really are.
- Don't post anything that would embarrass you later.

Source: myspace.com



Tips for Youth continued

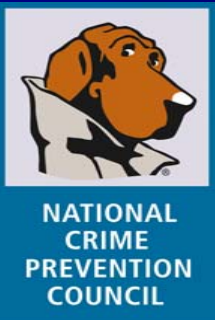
- Always follow your family's rules for using the Internet.
- Don't open up emails, files, or web pages that you get from people you don't really know or trust.
- Don't ever do anything that could cost your family money unless your parents are there to help you do it.
- Don't ever give out your password.

Source: GetNetWise





Reporting Trouble



Whom To Contact for Help

Local Police

There is no national agency that deals with every type of Internet crime. Your local law enforcement is your best first resource.



Whom To Contact continued

National Child Advocacy Groups

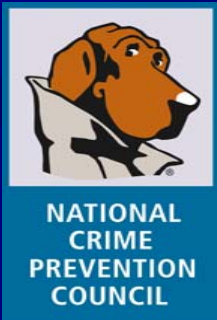
- Suicide Prevention Hotline: 800-SUICIDE
- Runaway Hotline: 800-231-6946
- National Council for Child Abuse and Family Violence: 800-222-2000
- ChildHelp USA National Child Abuse Hotline: 800-4-A-Child
- National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information: 800-729-6686
- The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (child sexual exploitation): 800-843-5678



Whom To Contact continued

Federal Law Enforcement

- Federal Bureau of Investigation (child-luring, an adult meets a child face-to-face): Call your state office.
- US Customs Service (child pornography): 800-BE-ALERT
- US Postal Inspection Service: usps.gov
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms: 888-ATF-TIPS
- Drug Enforcement Administration: usdoj.gov/dea



Source: GetNetWise

Resources

- National Crime Prevention Council

www.ncpc.org, www.Mcgruff.org

- Federal Trade Commission

www.OnGuardOnline.gov

- Internet Keep Safe Coalition

www.iKeepSafe.org

- i-SAFE

www.i-safe.org



Resources continued

- National Cyber Security Alliance

www.staysafeonline.org

- Staysafe.org – educational site that provides education for consumers about the Internet



Resources continued

- Web Wise Kids

www.wiredwithwisdom.org

- Netsmartz

www.netsmartz.org

- National Criminal Justice Reference Service

www.ncjrs.gov



The National Crime Prevention Council

**1000 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Thirteenth Floor
Washington, DC 20036
202-466-6272
202-296-1356 fax
www.ncpc.org**



Presenter Contact Information

