

TEENLife

ONLINE

(including SEX!!!)



A Youth Guide To Cyber-life As You Know It.

The Internet Is Changing Many Things QUICKLY

You are the first wave of people growing up online. Life online is so new that ten years ago, most youth had never heard of text messaging or email. As a result you're probably finding that you don't have many role models to help you deal with online issues.

In fact you might even know more about computers and the Web than the adults in your life.

Does stuff online ever freak you out?

For every opportunity on the Internet there is also a new kind of risk or danger: financial, emotional, sexual. This booklet offers some questions and some answers about online safety and particularly about online sexual exploitation. It also offers some suggestions and links about safer ways to navigate the Web and accurate information about sexual health.

Do you worry that if you tell the adults in your life about the stuff you see online they'll freak out and pull the plug on the whole computer?

They have some good reasons to be concerned. However, if you talk to them about the Internet you may find you'll both learn something about online dangers. Offer to show the adults in your life something about the Internet or show them this booklet. Educate them about the internet while you listen to their concerns and ideas about personal safety.



Digital communication will replace the telephone or television for your generation. Young people in Canada, ages 18-22, are already spending more time online than watching television. (Ipsos-Reid, August 2005).

What Is Online Sexual Exploitation?

Online sexual exploitation involves the use of digital communication to sexually humiliate, manipulate or harm a youth. This can include:

- Engaging in sexual activities online, i.e. cybersex (cybering),
- Sending, creating, or distributing sexual images, or
- Luring youth to another city or country.



Headlines

Man Charged After Girl Assaulted On Web Broadcast

(Calgary, AB, cbc.ca, June 3, 2005)

Net Pal Gets B.C. Girl To Pose Naked Online

(Vancouver Province, November 8, 2001)

Ex-Girlfriend's Nude Photos Lead To Child Porn Charges

TORONTO - A 16-year-old from Toronto is facing child pornography charges after nude photos of his former girlfriend were posted on a website. The photos appeared on a teen-oriented website in February, shortly after the ex-girlfriend, now 16, complained to police that her former boyfriend had extorted money from her.

Police say the ex-boyfriend put the photos on the site and wrote a message impersonating his former girlfriend, making it seem as if it were her site. The girl has missed several weeks of school and feels humiliated, said police. The boy has been charged with possessing and distributing child pornography and with impersonation with intent.

(CBC News, April 22, 2005)

Types of Online Activities:

- Instant messaging via MSN, Yahoo or others,
- Finding information, for school or personal interest,
- Online communities, bulletin boards, forums or chatrooms where like-minded people gather,
- Cell phones, for talking, taking pictures, text messaging, emailing, web browsing etc.,
- Online gaming via the web or through game consoles,
- Pod casting: both audio and video 'casts' can be relatively cheap to produce and mostly free to download,
- Online music: downloading off the web, ripping your own CDs, or just organizing what you've got,
- Role Play Games (RPG's). These can take place in virtual environments or MUDDs,
- Blogs, text or photo blogs (e.g flickr) allow for individuals to create and update their own web space easily,
- Online shopping.



How Online Activities Can Be Used To Harm You

Adults With A Sexual Interest In Children Use The Web;

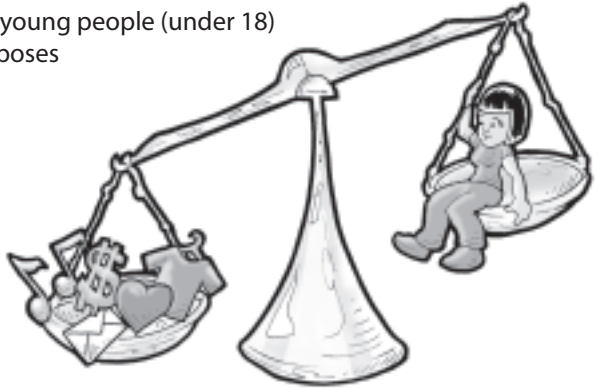
- *to contact children*, either in chats or on MSN, through online gaming boards or *by stalking you* through an online profile or blog,
- *trade pictures* of children being sexual – *as models or porn stars or as rape* – via email, cell phones,
- to organize themselves online, *and try to get others to agree with their activities*, via chat rooms and newsgroups
- and to *lure children and teens* into face-to-face meetings, *to have sex, take pictures or whatever*.

From a study that looked at sexual assaults against youth where they met on the internet: "most offenders did not deceive victims about the fact that they were adults who were interested in sexual relationships. Most victims met and had sex with the adults on more than one occasion. Half of the victims were described as being in love with, or feeling close bonds with, the offenders. Offenders used violence in 5% of the episodes." (Source <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/pdf/jvq/CV71.pdf>)

Caring Adults Do Not Seek Out Sexual Relationships With Teenagers!

- Remember a sense of being appreciated and supported CAN be manipulative!
- Don't let someone take advantage of you online by making promises or unrealistic offers,
- Having sex with a person under the age of 14,
- Taking sexual pictures of someone under 18,
- Posting sexual pictures of someone under 18 on the Internet,
- **and** using the Web to lure young people (under 18) into meeting for sexual purposes

ALL ARE ILLEGAL IN CANADA.



Meeting Face-to-Face

Many young people have gone missing or have been harmed when they've met chatroom buddies face-to-face. If you arrange to meet someone, **DON'T GO ALONE!** Take someone with you, tell a responsible adult where you're going, who you're going to meet and the contact information for that person. Leave enough information that if you go missing, those who love you know where to look for you.

What To Do

When You Search Online, Find Credible Sources.

The Web has many good sources of information on sexuality, drugs, alcohol and health issues. Many are youth-run organizations. These are places to find answers to questions you might not know how to ask. They offer information that is medically and academically reliable, and which allows you to make up your own mind.

Websites With Information On Sexual Health

<http://www.optionsforsexualhealth.org/youth/index.htm>

<http://www.yesmeansyes.com>

<http://www.goaskalice.columbia.edu>

<http://www.sexualityandu.ca>

<http://www.positive.org>

<http://gurl.com>

<http://www.youthone.com>

<http://www.spankmag.com>

<http://www.safeonlineoutreach.org>



Remember That Digital Images Are Permanent.

What Happens To Images You Post To The Web?

- First, **pictures can be Photoshopped** and turned into pornography, these photos could then be used to embarrass or blackmail you.
- Second, **digital images are permanent** and while you might think it's cool now to have sexy pictures of yourself up on the web, chances are you won't feel the same about it twenty years from now when your children, employer or friends might see them.
- Third, **cute party pictures you think are innocent may not be seen the same way by others.** Many people online use sexualized pictures of young people to sexually arouse themselves and to look at while masturbating.
- So before you pose in front of a web-cam, or post pictures from your latest slumber party, think about how others might use those images, how long that image will be around, who else will see it and how it might be used.

Look After Your Eyes!

Like seeing your parents having sex or your Principal in a thong, some images are going to stay in your head longer than you like. Look after your eyes and **BE YOUR OWN FILTER.**

DON'T VIEW extremely violent, sexually graphic or trauma-inducing images!



Something To Think About....

What you see while you're developing sexually may have an impact on your future sex life. Often, a situation, images, clothing or even smells associated with our first sexual experience remain anchored in our sexual responses for a long time. If your first sexual experiences include cybersex or viewing online pornography these activities may remain with you for life.

Protect Your Identity

Identity Theft

This can range from someone impersonating you in a chatroom or on a message board to stealing all of your I.D. numbers—namely driver's license, passport or social insurance numbers. These people can use your name to go into debt or commit criminal acts, which you will have to prove you weren't involved in.

Online Identity

When you go online, you have to make decisions about who you want to be. Every new account or game membership means you have to create an identity for yourself; a new username, password, profile or email. None of these little bits of information about you is absolutely secure.



Identifying information such as:

- your birthdate
- your school
- your cell phone number
- your living situation
- or where you work after school

Should NEVER be online ANYWHERE.

Ultimately, you'll have to decide what you are going to see online. Cyberspace is the least censored communication medium today. As tomorrow's adults, and the first Internet generation, the responsibility is falling on your shoulders to think critically about your online activities and to create positive online communities and culture for all of us. (Remember to include resourceful adults and their practical advice!)

If You Need Help...

If you (or someone you know) is being threatened, harassed or exploited online, tell a trustworthy adult, or contact:

Kids Help Line

1-800-668-6868

or <http://kidshelp.sympatico.ca>

If you see or know of child pornography online report it to

Cybertip.ca

At <http://www.cybertip.ca>,

Or contact your local School Liaison Officer, school counselor or tell a trustworthy adult.

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