

**Argyle Middle School PTSA Presentation**

# **Internet Security For Our Children**

Silver Spring, MD  
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*This document is confidential and is intended solely for the use and information of the client to whom it is addressed.*

# Table Of Contents

- ▶ What Children Do on the Internet
- ▶ Internet Threats That Children Face
- ▶ Reduce the Risk of Being Victimized
- ▶ Software Products To Protect Children
- ▶ Resource Guide

**More than 30 million children use the internet<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

## Communicate with Others, Access Information, Play Games

- ▶ E-mail
  - Send messages to single or multiple e-mail addresses
  - Send file attachments
  
- ▶ Instant Messaging
  - Communicate in real-time with text messages
  - Conduct single or multiple conversations at once
  - Send messages to cell phones, PDAs
  
- ▶ Social Networking
  - Communicate in real-time with text based, audio or video chat messages, blogging
  - Communicate with friends, acquaintances, and strangers
  - Frequently used sites: MySpace, Facebook, YouTube, Xanga

# Communicate with Others, **Access Information**, Play Games

- ▶ Find information of interest
  - Sports
  - TV Shows
  - Movies
  - Celebrity News
  
- ▶ Conduct Research for Homework
  - Access Information About Any School Subject
  - Research Specific Topics for Papers
  - Get homework help
  
- ▶ Review Products
  - Lookup product information
  - Find out product purchasing details
  - Purchase product(s)

# Communicate with Others, Access Information, **Play Games**

- ▶ Access Online Games
  - Play online games alone
  - Play online games with multiple players
- ▶ Download games to play
  - Download games for single or multiple players
  - Download/install software to play games
- ▶ Access Community Gaming Forums
  - Enter gaming competitions
  - Get help with games (i.e., cheat codes, FAQs)
  - Chat with other gamers about online games and console games

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**Approximately 1 in 7 youths, ages 10-17, experience a sexual solicitation or approach while online<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>2</sup>National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

# Pedophiles, Inappropriate Content, Privacy Violations

## ▶ Definitions of a Pedophile

- “An adult who is sexually attracted to a child or children” (American Heritage Dictionary)
- “A significantly older individual who prefers to have sex with individuals legally considered children” (document for Law Enforcement Officers published by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice)

## ▶ Profile of a Pedophile

*There is no perfect profile. Common indicators/characteristics include:*

- Old/Young, Rich/Poor, Educated/Uneducated, Professional/Non-Professional, Family Friend/Stranger
- Typically white males between the ages of 25 and 45 years
- Increasingly use the internet to target children
- Often have daily contact with children through employment or volunteer activities
- Maintain pornography collections
- Don't think of themselves as pedophiles or that they are doing anything wrong

# **Pedophiles, Inappropriate Content, Privacy Violations**

- ▶ How they operate
  - Participate in chat rooms, specifically seeking children, asking questions to obtain personal information
  - Send frequent email messages to establish a relationship of friendship and trust
  - Often ask to meet in person and make arrangements for that purpose

# Pedophiles, **Inappropriate Content**, Privacy Violations

- ▶ Thousands of web sites present content that is not suitable for children
  - Freely available pornographic videos, movies, and still pictures
  - Legal adult pornography and illegal child pornography
  - Web sites that depict hate and abhorrent and horrific acts
- ▶ Many web sites present content about committing crimes
  - How to make a basic pipe bomb, how to make a CO<sub>2</sub> bomb, how to make explosives from bleach
  - The Marijuana Grower's Guide, how to make cocaine, beginner's guide to amphetamines
  - Making fake identification cards, obtaining research papers and projects from the internet (plagiarism), sending for phony degrees from a college/university
- ▶ Cyberbullying
  - Insulting, defaming email and instant messages
  - Web sites created to insult and threaten

# Pedophiles, Inappropriate Content, **Privacy Violations**

- ▶ What happens when we sign up for free services on the Internet
  - Sign up for free e-mail or download free software; the companies often ask for personal information such as your child's name, address, phone number, gender, date of birth, interests\*
  - Information is stored in a database with your child's name
  - Spyware obtains your personal information without your informed consent; this information is sent to advertisers and other interested parties
  - Adware obtains your personal information, assumes you know (you must read the fine print); this information is used for advertising, marketing, or other commercial purposes
- ▶ Cookies – Consists of a piece of information stored on the user's computer to help identify the user; HTML writers use them for legitimate desirable purposes, however, abuse does occur
- ▶ Browsing Profiles – Profiling assembles and analyzes several events to gain information about the originating entity; the profiles may link with information that identifies the person

\*Some web services, such as Hotmail, require parents to provide consent when their children under the age of 13 sign up for the service and use protective services

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**Less than 10% of sexual solicitations are reported to authorities such as a law enforcement agency, an Internet service provider, or a hotline<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>3</sup>Counter Pedophilia Investigative Unit

## Educate, Monitor, and Familiarize Yourself with the Laws

*Ethics is about understanding how your actions affect other people, knowing what is right and wrong, and taking personal responsibility for your actions. Cyber-ethics is just a different way of looking at ethics through the eyes of computers, technology, and the Internet.*

- ▶ Explain to your children what dangers exist on the Internet, how and why to avoid them
  - “Don’t talk to strangers” on the Internet – It’s easy to pretend to be someone who you’re not on the Internet
  - Avoid anyone who asks for personal information on the Internet – Never give personal information to a stranger on the Internet, log off and tell a teacher or your parent
  - Never have a face-to-face meeting with someone you have met on the Internet
  - Never send or post photos of yourself on the Internet
  - Don’t respond to message boards, chat requests or web sites that contain rude language
  - Don’t believe everything you read on the Internet, it includes information that is inadvertently incorrect and information that is deliberately intended to mislead

## Educate, Monitor, and Familiarize Yourself with the Laws

- ▶ Information search results depend upon comparisons of words typed into the search field with words in the software code. Many pornographic and inappropriate content web sites use normal, everyday words hidden in their web pages. Thus, performing a search on a major search engine using words such as “free,” “stories,” “pictures,” “dog,” and “horse” returned some legitimate results along with web sites containing bestiality
- ▶ Unsolicited junk mail, also known as “spam,” can contain pornographic subject headers and images, Spammers use e-mail addresses obtained from a wide range of sources
- ▶ Pop-up Advertising is Annoying and Intrusive
  - Windows Messenger pop-ups - Spammers use the Windows Messenger Service to send messages/pop-up advertising
  - Web Browser pop-up ads – Pop-up ads may be displayed by the web sites you visit and by adware installed on your computer
  - Pop-under Ads - Pop-under windows appear under the web browser window only after the current web browser window has been closed or another web site is visited

## Educate, **Monitor**, and Familiarize Yourself with the Laws

- ▶ Be involved in and monitor your child's use of the internet, for safety
  - Keep the computer in a room that is readily accessible, like the family room
  - Spend some time exploring the Internet with your child
  - Introduce or spend time with your child in a chat room so they will learn the ground rules and monitor their chat room conversations
  - Become familiar with common acronyms used in instant messages and Internet chat rooms, for example: BFF=best friends forever, IM=instant message, LOL=laugh out loud, OMG=oh my gosh, POS=parent over shoulder, A3=anytime, anywhere, anyplace, MMA=meet me at, ASLP=age, sex, location, picture, NQA=no questions asked
  - Show your child the difference between advertising and educational content
  - Establish a reasonable time limit for Internet access for doing homework, sending email messages, playing games, etc.
  - Establish rules for ordering goods and services online; generally, children should not order anything without a parent being present
  - Decide whether to install monitoring software on your computer

## Educate, **Monitor**, and Familiarize Yourself with the Laws

- ▶ Check the blogs your child visits
  - Blogs often contain a summary of a person's life in chronological order
  - Blogs allow visitors to contact the blog owner via e-mail or post a message in response to an article
  - Blogs can provide a predator with enough information to profile your child

## Educate, Monitor, and Familiarize Yourself with the Laws

*The Law cares more about what you did than why you did it. If you break into a computer system, even if you have a good reason, what you did is still illegal.*

- ▶ Federal Communications Commission (FCC) – Regulates interstate and international communications by radio, television, wire, satellite, and cable in the U.S; FCC enforces the
  - Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) – This law requires schools and libraries receiving federal technology funds to install pornography-blocking software on their computers
- ▶ Federal Trade Commission (FTC) – Enforces federal antitrust and consumer protection laws; FTC’s authority extends to the Internet, it enforces the
  - Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) – This law gives parents control of what information is collected from their children online; it applies to those operators of commercial Web sites and online services directed to children under age 13 who collect personal information from children

## Educate, Monitor, and Familiarize Yourself with the Laws

- ▶ Department of Justice – Serves as primary federal criminal investigation and enforcement agency; it enforces the
  - Protect Act of 2003 – This law provides, among other things, wiretapping authority for seven sexual offenses, including child pornography and the sexual exploitation of children, in an attempt to catch online predators before they strike; also implements the Amber Alert Program

# TAKE ACTION!

## ▶ PREVENT!

- Install appropriate software on your computer
- Set and activate parental controls
- Run and read reports from monitoring software

## ▶ REACT!

If you think you are a victim, report the crime to:

- FBI and National White Collar Crime Center's Internet Crime Complaint Center at: <http://www.ic3.gov/>
- National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's CyberTipline: [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com) or call 1-800-843-5678
- Maryland Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at: 1-800-THE-LOST

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# Filtering Software, Monitoring Software, Internet Security Software, Antivirus Software

- ▶ Content Filtering Software
  - Allows you to restrict the content retrieved to your computer
  - Some web browsers have a “Content Advisor” that can block inappropriate web sites
  - Some search engines provide a filtering option to filter out inappropriate content
- ▶ E-mail Filtering Software
  - Can delete blacklist e-mail addresses; a blacklist is a list of e-mail addresses known to be used to send spam
  - An e-mail filtering program that uses whitelists allows you to compile a list of permitted e-mail addresses and automatically deletes or flags for deletion all e-mails that originate from e-mail addresses that are not on your whitelist
- ▶ Filtering Software to Block Content
  - Block chat rooms, pop-ups, instant messaging ports, newsgroups

# Filtering Software, **Monitoring Software**, Internet Security Software, Antivirus Software

- ▶ Monitor emails and instant messages – Allows you to see both sides of an instant message conversation, can view sent and received emails or just keystrokes
- ▶ Monitor web sites – Allows you to see all web sites visited, or just web site addresses
- ▶ Provide data filtering – Allows you to record screenshots of anything you define as “interesting” or retrieve information based on an “important” word alert that you define
- ▶ Access data remotely – Allows you to access information from monitoring activity from another computer
- ▶ Provide Stealth - Allows the software program to run in the background/be invisible to the computer user
- ▶ Reporting – Can run reports to see what the monitoring activity has captured
- ▶ *Controversial – Some parents use it and others decide to “trust” their children*

# Filtering Software, Monitoring Software, Internet Security Software, Antivirus Software

- ▶ Internet Security software provides security features, typically by component, and internet security software suites bundle popular home-security products and are usually sold at a lesser cost than buying the individual components
- ▶ Firewall software directs and stops traffic coming into your computer from the Internet and out of your computer to the Internet
- ▶ Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS) recognize common types of attacks on computer systems; an IDS will alert you if your computer becomes the subject of a “hacker attack” and allow you to make an informed decision about what to do

# Filtering Software, Monitoring Software, Internet Security Software, Antivirus Software

- ▶ Antivirus Software searches for and destroys known computer viruses and worms; it can also look for unusual behavior; the two types of antivirus software are
  - Online scanner – You must download from the antivirus vendor, it is only active when you visit the vendor's web site, download the scanner, and begin scanning your computer
  - Program you install – You must install this program on your computer, which remains on your computer all of the time
- ▶ Updates
  - Keep your software as up to date as possible
  - Automatic updates ensure that your software will automatically connect to the vendor web site and receive updates

## Table of Contents

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## Books, Web Sites, Software

- ▶ Cyber-Safe Kids, Cyber-Savvy Teens: Helping Young People Learn to Use the Internet Safely and Responsibly *by Nancy E. Willard*
- ▶ Encyclopedia of Information Ethics and Security *by Marian Quigley*
- ▶ Internet & Computer Ethics for Kids (and Parents & Teachers Who Haven't Got a Clue.) *by Winn Schwartau*
- ▶ Internet Safety Family Guide *by Victoria Roddel*
- ▶ Internet Safety Kids' Guide (specifically for middle school students) *by Victoria Roddel*
- ▶ MySpace Unraveled: A Parent's Guide to Teen Social Networking *by Larry Magid and Anne Collier*
- ▶ Parenting and the Internet: The Guide for Raising Your Child to Be Smarter and Safer Online *by Todd Curtis*
- ▶ Teens and Computers – What's a Parent To Do?: A Basic Guide to Social Networking, Instant Messaging, Chat, Email, Computer Set-up, and More *by Donna S. Bast*

## Books, **Web Sites**, Software

- ▶ Montgomery County Public Schools internet resource web site:
  - <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/cipa/resources.shtm>
  
- ▶ Online safety for families:
  - <http://www.kidshealth.org>
  - <http://www.netsmartz.org>
  - <http://www.safekids.com>
  - <http://www.wiredsafety.org>
  - <http://www.loveourchildrenusa.org> (includes a Child/Parent Internet Safety Agreement)
  - <http://www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguideee.htm> (FBI's Parent Guide to Internet Safety)
  
- ▶ Legal information and privacy news:
  - <http://www.epic.org> (information about civil liberties issues and privacy protection)
  - <http://www.privacy.org> (daily news and information about privacy)

## Books, **Web Sites**, Software

- ▶ Instant messaging and chat room acronyms:
  - <http://www.aim.com/acronyms.adp> (AOL's dictionary)
  - <http://www.sharpened.net/glossary/acronyms.php>
  - <http://www.solscape.com/chat/acronyms.html>

## Books, Web Sites, Software

- ▶ Monitoring and access control software:
  - I Am Big Brother 9.1 by Software 4 Parents (\$29.95)
  - Net Nanny 5.6 by LookSmart (\$38.95)
  - PC Tattletale by Parent Control Products LLC (\$49.95)
  - Safe Eyes Parental Control Software 5.0 by InternetSafety.com (\$49.95)
  - SentryPC 2.1 by Spytech Software and Design, Inc. (\$49.95)
  - SnoopStick from CYBERSitter by Solid Oak Software (\$59.95)
  - Spector Pro Review 6.0 by SpectorSoft Corporation (\$99.95)
  
- ▶ Internet Security Software
  - BitDefender Internet Security v2008 by BitDefender (\$39.95)
  - Kaspersky Internet Security 7.0 by Kaspersky (\$79.95)
  - McAfee Internet Security Suite 2007 by McAfee (\$49.99)
  - Norton Internet Security 2008 by Symantec (\$69.99)
  - Panda Internet Security 2007 by Panda Software (\$69.95)
  - Trend Micro (“PC-cillin”) Internet Security 2008 by Trend Micro (\$49.95)
  - ZoneAlarm Internet Security Suite 7.0 by Check Point (\$39.95)

***Thank you!***

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