

Internet & e-Mail Safety

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Safety, especially child safety, on the web is a lot like traditional aspects of safety. Doing the wrong thing or being in the wrong place can endanger your safety whether on the web or in the real (non virtual) world.

| Issue | Real World | Virtual World of the Web |
|---|---|--|
| Get Rich Quick Schemes- If it sound to good to be true it probably it probably is not true | Telephone and mail scams, chain letters, "business deals" | "Nigerian e-mail", Offer to pay with check or money order over the amount owed |
| Identify Theft | Solicitation of personal information via phone of mail, dumpster diving, covertly copying of credit cards/credentials | Phishing e-mails, fake web sites, data mining of old public records, insecure commercial sites, embedded information in e-mail attachments |
| Copyright Infringement | Pirated CDs/DVD, Designer Clothing, Car Parts, etc. | Illegal File Sharing (Torrent Sites), Pirated Software |
| Sexual Predators | Local parks, ball fields or near schools, Bars, dark allies | Online Chat Rooms, For Sale sites with Adult categories, e-mail solicitation, online child pornography |
| Pornography and Sexually Explicit Materials by minors | Covert possession/sharing of print materials, Polaroid Photos, Mailings, Sexual Predators | Adult Web Sites, Digital Cameras and File sharing, e-mail exchanges, Sexting, Pop-Ups, Online Chat Rooms |
| Wrong Place at the Wrong Time | Late hours in public places, bars, illegal businesses, dangerous public places, etc. | Online Chat Rooms, Illegal File Sharing sites, Illegal Gambling and Gaming Sites, Get Rich Scams |
| Private or Public Embarrassment | Sending letter to wrong party, public release of personal information, inappropriate acts in public, Surveillance | Sending e-mail to wrong party, sending e-mail to group when you meant a single individual, embedded information in e-mail attachments, Inappropriate Social Networking postings, Sexting, Video surveillance |

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| The 10 Most Dangerous Things Your Children or You Can Do With a Computer | |
|--|---|
| 1. Putting the computer(s) in the wrong place(s) | The only completely effective "filter" or monitor of child's computer use are the eyes of a parent or teacher |
| 2. Believe that traditional computers are the only way to get on-line | Cell phones, i-Pads, Gaming Consoles and now even TVs are all ways of getting to the Internet (with many more devices soon to follow). |
| 3. Assume that any piece of software will completely protect you or your family | Filtering software can always be circumvented. Anti-virus & anti-malware programs are never 100% effective |
| 4. Not keeping your computer's Operating System software, Browser (Internet Explorer, FireFox, Opera, Chrome, etc.) software & Browser Add-Ons and Anti-Malware Software Up-to-date. | Your Browser, OS and Anti-Malware protection and safety features are only effective when you keep them up-to-date. Beware of harmful add-ons and other software. Also make software is configured properly and scheduled to run scans or updates as needed. |
| 5. Not having at least a general idea about how the Internet works and how your Internet Browser works | How can a web address be spoofed, when is a connection secure, what built-in functions can you use to increase safety and how are bad & dangerous things perpetuated on the web ? |
| 6. Clicking on a link to a web page, before identifying where it will take you, especially when the link is in an e-mail | Never trust the text you see on a Hyperlink, always try to determine the web address of the web site the hyperlink will actually take you to. |
| 7. Posting or submitting information on a web site. | Posting is forever and you have no future control of who might find it. Also be aware that you may have been directed to a fake web site and that site addresses can be spoofed. |
| 8. Sending an e-mail or e-mail response to the wrong person or someone you do not know. | Never answer an e-mail unless you know and trust the other party, especially if it was an unsolicited e-mail promising you things. |
| 9. Sending an e-mail attachment that contains confidential embedded information, an inaccurate or dangerous web link or a piece of malware code. | Document & Image files often contain embedded information that is not visible to you and this may include personal or sensitive information or even malware. |
| 10. Sending or Replying to an e-mail and not understanding the difference between cc: and bcc: | Having an e-mail go to the wrong person or group of people can be embarrassing or dangerous. You may also endanger others addresses by allowing harvesting of addresses by unscrupulous recipients |
| 11. Believe everything you read on the Internet is True. | Before you believe it, always try to know who put the information there and why it was put there. Become a more savvy searcher and Information Literate user. <i><u>Know how to find what you want and know what you have found.</u></i> |