

## DID YOU KNOW...

**70% of all 15-17 year-olds who have ever gone online have accidentally stumbled across pornography online, 23 percent "very" or "somewhat" often.** (Kaiser Family Foundation study, 2001)

**1 in 5 children ages 10-17 have received a sexual solicitation over the Internet.** (The Web's Dark Secret; Newsweek, 19 March, 2001)

**43% of children said they do not have rules about Internet use in their homes.** (Time/CNN Poll, 2000)

**74% of commercial pornography sites display free porn images on the homepage.** (Child-Proofing on the World Wide Web: A Survey of Adult Webservers, 2001, Jurimetrix (abstract).)

**9 of 10 kids aged 8-16 have viewed pornography on the Internet, often in the process of doing homework.** (London School of Economics January 2002 )

# Safe Internet Use

## We are the first generation of "Internet Parents"

The Internet provides our children with an invaluable resource for learning, but it has introduced an entirely new set of concerns into our homes.

We as parents need to become Internet Savvy. By this I mean that we develop a basic understanding of what's on the Internet and how children use it. We are the first generation of Internet parents, so it's all new to everyone.

Don't be intimidated if you haven't done much on the Web except e-mailing or shopping—anyone can learn about how the Internet works. And don't be afraid to admit to your children that they are probably more Net savvy than you. What's most important is to understand the Internet

within the context of your children's own experiences.

Begin by visiting the sites they visit, just as you'd



### Protecting our most valuable Assets

want to know where they go in the real world.

Use an Internet filtering tool. Internet filters are programs that "preview" text before it is sent to your computer. If the filter encounters an objectionable site, the computer

user will be notified that the site is not appropriate.

Create some house rules for how much time children can spend online.

Keep the computer out of your child's bedroom. Instead, set it up in an area that's used by the entire family.

Know who your children talk to and write to online, whether through an instant message, e-mail, or chat-room conversation.

Make sure that your children understand that once something is on the Internet it can and most likely will get into the public domain.

If used in the correct context the Internet can be a rich source of information for everyone in the family.

## Internet Filters

### K9 Web Protection

Based on the corporate product Blue Coat and utilising the same technology K9 is completely **free** for Home Use.

<http://www.getk9.com/>

### Symantec Internet Security

Corporate level security and Internet filter. Incorporates Anti-Virus and Firewall for complete security.

<http://tinyurl.com/rdoep>

### McAfee Internet Security Suite

Similar and competing product to the Symantec Internet Security providing Firewall, Internet filter and Anti-Virus.

<http://tinyurl.com/qa8rw>

**For information on Internet Filters available visit** <http://tinyurl.com/plydb>

**Note:** Most services are a 1 Year subscription and will need to be renewed for updates to new threats

# Further Reading



**“Even though the children themselves may be more computer-literate, it is the parents who have a very important role in making sure their children are using new technology safely.”**

*Mary Hanafin, Minister for Education and Science, Irish Sunday Mirror, July 29th 2001*



[www.besafeonline.org](http://www.besafeonline.org)  
Advice and information about Internet safety for parents and teachers, plus opportunities to discuss problems and share solutions. This guidance is intended to make adults more aware of how to use the Internet safely, so that they can encourage safe behaviour online among children and young people.

[www.netsafekids.com](http://www.netsafekids.com)  
An excellent source of education on where unwanted content comes from, and why you need to get educated! Includes information on how to report an incident if your child has been a victim of pornography, sexual predation, spam, Internet fraud, or harassment.

[www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguidee.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguidee.htm)  
A Parent's guide to Internet Safety.

[www.getnetwise.org](http://www.getnetwise.org)  
A site dedicated to educating parents and kids about online risks.

[www.isafe.org](http://www.isafe.org)  
Endorsed by the US Congress, this non-profit foundation has developed a classroom curriculum and community outreach programs.

<http://home.eircom.net/safesurfing/>  
Safe surfing guide for both parents and children. Using it can help you help your children to stay safe online.

[www.ikeepsafe.org](http://www.ikeepsafe.org)  
This site teaches basic rules of Internet safety to children and parents. Great for getting younger kids on the right track early.

<http://partners.nytimes.com/library/national/science/health/051600hth-behavior-cybersex.html>  
A startling report from The New York Times Science section that highlights the dangers of sexually explicit Internet content. It's not just amusement; it's like a drug.

[www.p-t-u.org](http://www.p-t-u.org)  
This site brings to the community the more disturbing facts about youth culture, and how important it is to get involved. Not just about Internet stuff.

# Terminology

## Instant Messaging

a computer application which allows for communications in real time, a live chat and email service. Programs include AIM, Yahoo, Windows Live Messenger and Skype.

## E-Mail

a system for sending messages from one individual to another via telecommunications links between computers or terminals.

## Chat-room

a site on a computer network where online conversations are held in real time by a number of users.

## Forum

a system that enables users to send or read electronic messages, files, and other data that are of general interest and addressed to no particular person.

## Myspace.com

a social networking website offering an interactive, user-submitted network of friends, personal profiles, blogs, groups, photos, music, and videos and is similar in format to BeBo, hi5.com and Yahoo! 360.

## Internet Filter

software which determines what content will be available on a particular machine or network; the motive is often to prevent persons from viewing content which the computer's

owner(s) or other authorities may consider objectionable.

## Anti-Virus

software which attempts to identify, thwart and eliminate computer viruses and other malicious software (malware).

## Firewall

an integrated collection of security measures designed to prevent unauthorized electronic access to a networked computer system.

## Blog

an online diary; published on a Web page

## Podcast

a Web-based audio broadcast over the Internet.