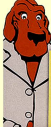




Just as protecting children and youth from dangers on the Internet is important, so is protecting the Internet from young people who might abuse it. Almost every day there are reports of youth-perpetrated crimes such as hacking into computer networks or spreading computer viruses. Youth do not need to be highly skilled in order to commit cyber crimes. Hacker tools can be downloaded easily from the Internet. Software can be copied and shared with a few clicks of the mouse. Passwords can be stolen and misused.

Youth may know what they are doing is wrong but do not realize that it's also illegal and could result in prosecution. Those who would never think of stealing CDs from their local music store might not hesitate to use file-sharing programs to "share" copyrighted music. Pranksters who send someone a computer virus that destroys his or her hard drive may not realize that this is a crime, not a prank. Kids who threaten or spread rumors about other kids on the Internet are no different from bullies on the playground and are guilty of harassment.



The best way to prevent cyber crime is to educate children and youth about the ethical and legal rules of the Internet.

Even teachers, parents, and other caregivers might not realize the ethical and legal implications of children's criminal behavior online. Parents and caregivers may be legally liable for acts of their children on the Internet. The U.S. Department of Justice categorizes cyber crime in three ways:

- **The computer as a target (using a computer to attack other computers):** Children who hack into school computer networks to view or change grades, deface websites, and create computer viruses are committing cyber crimes.
- **The computer as a weapon (using a computer to commit a crime):** Children are committing cyber crimes when they use email and chat programs to harass others by saying things they would never say face to face or when they steal passwords in order to read other people's emails or to send emails in their name.
- **The computer as an accessory (using a computer to store illegal files or information):** Children who download and share copyrighted music and other programs without the permission of the owner are committing cyber crimes.

The best way to prevent cyber crime is to educate children and youth about the ethical and legal rules of the Internet, the financial and emotional cost of cyber crime to victims, and the consequences for committing cyber crimes. Parents and other caregivers should also be educated on the importance of monitoring their children's use of the Internet.

The website of the Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section of the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, www.cybercrime.gov, has information for kids, parents, and teachers on cyber crime and cyber ethics, especially relating to intellectual property crime and hacking.

Kids: Be a Good Cyber Citizen!



Like a car, the computer is a complex machine that needs your care and attention in order to perform well. It can take you places as your car; some of these places are familiar to you and some are not.

Understand the expense "hacking the Internet." It is every day, spending time on the Internet is more like driving a car than riding a train. Like your car, the computer is a complex machine that needs your care and attention in order to perform well. It can take you places as your car; some of these places are familiar to you and some are not. And whether you're behind the wheel or in the passenger seat, you'll need to take the safety of those around you dependent on your willingness to use common sense, follow traffic rules, and stay focused.

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TAKE CARE OF YOUR COMPUTER
Follow your computer manufacturer's care manual, making your files and make it difficult or impossible to use. If your computer becomes infected, you might lose files, photos or be other computer users without realizing it.

- If your computer doesn't have antivirus software, install it and keep it up-to-date.
- Don't open an email from someone you don't know. It might contain a virus.
- If you open an email or instant message, don't click on links or download files that come with it.
- Don't pass along other people's instant messages, as they may contain viruses.
- Lock down logons, passwords, and keep them secret...never loan them from your friends.
- Make sure that your family has installed software that keeps your computer safe from hackers.
- If you use computer spending system always be sharing, double it. This sharing could be used to infect your computer with a virus if it has the files of your computer.
- Disconnect your computer when you're not on the Internet.
- Help your family by backing up your computer files onto CDs or a hard drive.

FOLLOW THE RULES OF THE ROAD
The best tool you have for surviving when you first on the Internet is your brain. If you come across websites that are inappropriate, full of hate messages, or that contain violent content, stop on. There are a few resources for safe browsing on the Internet.

- When given user name, address, telephone number, password, school name, personal e-mail, or other personal information, never give it out to anyone, even if you're talking to someone you know.
- When given a chat box, try to chat with someone you've met before without discussing it with your parents. If your parents find out that it's easy to meet your "Internet friend," imagine what a trouble job for them and take a break with you.
- Never meet an online stranger to someone without first getting your parents' permission.
- If you receive pornography material or something violent, use the internet report, tell your parents, and contact your school's computer monitor and your local law enforcement agency.
- Beware of emails that are trying to trick you something. It is probably not real forwarded to them. If you do, stop and thinking that you have a valid email address and the sender will continue to contact you with others.
- If you have your parent's permission to enter something over the Internet, go directly to the company's website. Never click on a link from an email.

RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS
Some things you do on the computer may seem okay to you, but they are actually crimes. Even if these other crimes are more prevalent, your actions can have a serious financial and emotional cost to your actions. Remember, if you have a friend or family member online on the Internet, you are no different from the rules of the playground. The U.S. Department of Justice describes these cyber-crimes as they are used to commit crimes.

- The computer as a target (using a computer to attack other computers). If you hack into school computer networks to view or change grades, steal files or deface websites, or create or send computer viruses, you are committing a crime.
- The computer as a weapon (using a computer to commit a crime). If you use email and chat programs to harass others by saying things they would never say face to face, steal passwords in order to read other people's emails, or send emails in their name, you are committing a crime.
- The computer as an accessory (using a computer to store illegal files or information). If you download and share copyrighted music, games, and other software without the permission of the owner or plagiarize copyright information and use it off anyone else, you are committing a crime.

If you have any questions about what is legal or illegal behavior on the Internet, talk to your teacher, parent, or other caregiver. You can also visit the U.S. Department of Justice website www.cybercrime.gov for more information about good cyber-citizenship.



Crime Prevention Tips From

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202-462-6272
www.nccpc.org

and



The National Citizens' Crime Prevention Campaign, sponsored by the Crime Prevention Coalition of America, is substantially funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.



Production made possible by a grant from ADT Security Services, Inc., a unit of Tyco Fire & Security Services.