

What is e safety?



E- safety is not just about computers. It's about being safe with all things electronic. So, as well as thinking about how are we using computers, we will look at our uses of other technology in the home such as Computers, Games- Consoles, Mobile Phones/ Handheld devices.

Your Computer Hard Drive What you store on it.

We have to think carefully about the way we use our computers.

Things we make



What is stored is stored on your hard drive? Do you have personal photographs on there that you wouldn't want anyone else to see? (eg your holiday snaps, or photos of your children) have you backed them up to other media?

Just having personal photographs living on your computer long term is unsafe, what will happen if your hard drive goes down? Whoever fixes the drive or runs recovery software on your computer, has access to those files and could potentially copy and distribute them. The same goes for any personal data such as bank/utility account information.

Make sure you back up your data, and remove any potentially sensitive material altogether.

Things we download

The internet is chock full of cool applications images and programs that we can download and install on our computers. We have to be wary though. things that we download may not always be what they appear to be.



Things to consider



Is it Legal? If you download pirated music, software or games without paying for them, you could be fined or even sent to prison. Also, because these materials came from a site that is delivering illegal material you have no legal recourse if you download a file that has a virus attached to it.

Try to keep a check on things that downloaded. Too many applications installed on your computer can slow it down and cause conflicts between programs fighting for resources such as the memory or processing power. If there are applications you no longer want or use - uninstall them.

Make sure you have a good Anti-Virus/spyware software package installed on your computer. I recommend Zone Alarm Internet security .If you want a free package as a stop gap the AVG is very good.

Links



[Zone Alarm](http://freeavg.com)
<http://freeavg.com>

Browsers



The Browser is the program we use to look at the web. the vast majority of people out there still use Internet Explorer. This is because most people have PC's instead of /Macintosh or Linux computers. The main Operating System for PC's is Microsoft Windows. When you install Microsoft Windows the default browser is Internet Explorer, which comes free with Windows. It's the logical choice for most people and they never question this because they get used to it.

Internet Explorer however, has been plagued with security issues in recent years, and many internet users have switched to other browsers. Firefox is reportedly far Safer and can be extended through the use of "plugins" these plugins add extra capabilities to the browser. Such as "Fox Filter"

Recent statistics (2009) on the browser market shows that Internet Explorer is still well ahead with over 60% of the market according to this source, with Firefox on 24% and Chrome and Safari each having around 5% of the market.

When we visit websites, our computer web browser automatically records each website we visit. This is supposedly to help us to easily revisit the sites we like. It is called **History**.

You can easily check the browsing history on your computer. This will enable you to observe which sites your child has been visiting. Of course tech savvy youngsters often know how to turn this feature off. These websites will show you how to check. It depends on which browser you use.

History Links

- Internet Explorer 7: http://malektips.com/internet_explorer_7_0009.html
- Firefox: http://kb.mozillazine.org/Viewing_the_browsing_history_-_Firefox
- Google chrome: <http://malektips.com/google-chrome-browsing-history.html>

Browser Download Links

- [Internet Explorer](#)
- [Firefox](#)
- [Safari](#)
- [Opera](#)
- [Fox Filter](#)

Email

Email is a powerful tool that enables us to keep in contact with people all over the world. Whether it be for business or pleasure. However, we have to keep safe here too. It isn't just children who are at risk.

SPAM



If you are unfamiliar with the term spam is simply unsolicited email. Never open an email attachment if it isn't from someone you know. The contents of SPAM can vary widely but common themes are:



Viagra / Medicine sales

Banking confirmation, emails

You have Won, emails

I have a million dollars and will share it with you, emails

Bank emails

If you receive an email claiming to be from your bank. They might send you news letters about offers they have but be very careful. Your bank will NEVER ask you to log in to your account to make changes. If you do this, you may become a victim of a Phishing Scam.



Bank of Ireland 365 Member,

You are required to confirm your email address. Please click the 'proceed' button below to login where you will be asked to update your account with your current email address.

Proceed

Phishing is basically an attempt by criminals to steal your personal identity data so they can use it to steal your money or purchase goods and services in our name.

I have...and will share

These type of emails originated in west africa, often nigeria, but have been copied worldwide. These were known as the 419 scams. You receive an email that goes something like this.

Your assistance is needed" The details vary, but the usual story is that a person, often a government or bank employee, knows of a large amount of unclaimed money or gold which he cannot access directly, usually because he has no right to it. Such people, who may be real but impersonated people or fictitious characters played by the con artist, could include the wife or son of a deposed African or Indonesian leader or dictator who has amassed a stolen fortune, or a bank employee who knows of a terminally ill wealthy person with no relatives or a wealthy foreigner who deposited money in the bank just before dying in a plane crash (leaving no will or known next of kin), The sums involved are usually in the millions of dollars, and the investor is promised a large share, typically ten to forty percent, if they assist the scam character in retrieving the money. Whilst the vast majority of recipients do not respond to these e-mails, a very small percentage do, enough to make the fraud worthwhile as many millions of messages can be sent. Invariably sums of money which are substantial, but very much smaller than the promised profits, are said to be required in advance for bribes, fees, etc.—this is the money being stolen from the victim, who thinks he or she is investing to make a huge profit.

Chat

Chat programs are very popular with people of all ages. The most popular chat program today is probably MSN messenger. Again, it comes pre installed with windows and you can upgrade to the latest version. This is great, so long as you are happy about who your child is chatting to and what they are saying/sending to each other.

Many children use MSN and other programs to chat with friends.

“Examples of chaat programs include Windows Live Messenger, Jabber, ICQ and AIM. IM technologies often include additional features that make them even more popular such as having the ability to talk directly for free; to share files; or to view the other party through a webcam.”

(Thinku know.com)

Gaming Consoles

Allow people to play online games also have chat capability, using microphones. the same rules should apply to consoles as Pc's



Some good tips are:

🔒 Make sure the computer is in a family area such as the lounge / dining room.

🔒 Look at your child's friend list. Ask them about who their contacts actually are.

🔒 Make sure they should not be adding people to their friend list who they do not actually know.

🔒 People often use aliases to hide their real

identity as such programs.

🔒 Have rules about what internet activity is acceptable such as not swapping personal details such as phone numbers or pictures. “♥♥Chantelle15♥♥” can easily turn out to be “Derek36”.

🔒 Ensure that your child knows how to **Block** anyone that they do not want to talk to anymore.

🔒 Ensure that your child knows not to arrange to meet people they befriend over the Internet.

Links

- 🔒 [Thinkuknow - information about chat](#)
- 🔒 [Getnetwise - Steps to take for Concerned Parents](#)
- 🔒 [Microsoft - Family Tools](#)

Phones



There are some risks in their use of mobile technology. A large proportion of new mobile phones have web access, and more recently - mobile TV has been launched. This means that young people can access content from the internet and TV wherever they are, and without parental or teacher supervision.

With the advent of picture and video messaging - young people need to be increasingly careful about the images they share. It is very easy for inappropriate images to be shared around a number of phones, changed and even put online, where it is impossible to get back. This is particularly worrying, if images are used in child abuse sites. Young people also need to be aware that they put themselves at risk of mobile bullying, or inappropriate intimate contact if they give out their mobile number to people they don't fully trust. (thinkuknow.com)

You can however check that the tariff your child has is suitable for them. If you feel it necessary you can restrict their access to the internet, or choose to buy them a phone without a camera.

Links



[Thinkyouknow - Mobiles](#)
[Vodafone - Child Safety](#)
[O2 - Child safety on mobiles](#)
[Orange - Child safety on mobiles](#)

I hope you have found this information useful. I'm afraid my list is far from comprehensive, but it should give you some pointers. We don't need to be scared of the Internet, It truly is a wonderful medium for sharing, playing and learning. So long as we are AWARE of the dangers, the Internet can be a lifelong benefit.

Further information



Essential information for Parents: <http://www.ceop.gov.uk/>
Facebook security: <http://www.allfacebook.com/2009/02/facebook-privacy/>
email safety: http://www.wiredsafety.org/safety/email_safety/index.html

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