Empowering Parents, Protecting Children

THE INTERNET: ENJOY, EMBRACE & EDUCATE

Empowering Parents, Protecting Children

Issue 1 | January 2015

Visit The Hub - www.childinternetsafety.co.uk

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Twitter was my lifeline

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Don’t put your foot in it!

Erasing your digital footprint.

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Welcome to the first issue of Child Internet Safety magazine (CIS), the first independent title designed to help parents, carers and anyone who works with young people to navigate the complex world of child safety online.

At CIS, we love the internet, the World Wide Web, social platforms, apps and smartphones. We believe that digital technology offers young people a means to communicate and learn about the world that is powerful and unprecedented. We acknowledge that and celebrate it: this isn’t a magazine that believes that the internet is a terrible place full of monsters and criminals. The whole world is out there online – the good and, yes, the bad – as Sir Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web explains in our profile (page 18).

Every child is now born into a digitally enabled world and we’re all, collectively, still learning about the benefits, and the dangers. Children are at the forefront of that, because their natural tendency to explore, communicate, and break down barriers is amplified online; any mistakes can have far-reaching consequences.

That’s why initiatives such as Safer Internet Day (see page 10) are so important. Held on 10th February, under the theme ‘Let’s create a better internet together’, it’s coordinated by a partnership of three leading organisations, Childnet International, Southwest Grid for Learning and the Internet Watch Foundation – collectively known as the UK Safer Internet Centre. Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity to talk to children about the safe and positive use of technology. Last year, over 450 organisations and 350 schools in the UK supported Safer Internet Day, reaching 25 per cent of children, 18 per cent of teachers, and 10 per cent of parents. This year, we want to reach even more.

While internet criminals hog the headlines, internet safety is about so much more than that. It’s about how we get behave on social platforms; about how children talk to each other, and to adults, online; about how adults strike the balance between protecting children and allowing them to explore; about how problems in the real world, such as prejudice and bullying (see page 32) have a new digital dimension, and about how young people take the difficult steps towards adulthood in a world in which everyone shares their lives online (see our piece on ‘Sexing’, on page 26).

Then there are the local, national and international issues; the debates and the arguments. And, amongst all that, there are inspiring tales about how the internet is helping people in their real lives – such as how social media supported football star Fabrice Muamba’s family during his devastating cardiac arrest (page 6). You’ll find lots of cool stuff in these pages too: websites, resources, apps, and organisations you may not have heard of, along with well-known people who are doing great work online.

Please take the time to check out our annual CIS summit and tell your school about it – and don’t miss out on all the valuable information on our recently revamped website! We’re aiming to make it your one-stop shop for everything relating to the safety of your family online. For more information see opposite, and page 4.

With best wishes from everyone at CIS.

Aisha Tilstone, Founder and publisher
www.ChildInternetSafety.co.uk

Chris Middleton, Editor

Gary Eastwood, Deputy Editor

Becki Wilson, Creative Director

Sofi Evans, Lead Creative

The annual Child Internet Safety Summit is back! Providing teachers, social workers, psychologists, and other professionals who are responsible for informing children about the dangers online, with a platform to network and hear from senior officials about the latest developments in Child Internet Safety.

The third annual Child Internet Safety summit is taking place on Friday July 3rd at the QEII Conference Centre, Westminster, London.

REGISTER NOW!
www.childinternetsafety.co.uk/summit/register-now

Visit The Hub - www.childinternetsafety.co.uk

Twiter was Muamba: Twitter was my lifeline...

With best wishes from everyone at CIS.
Empowering Teachers and Parents, Protecting Children

At Child Internet Safety, we understand that all parents worry about their child’s safety online. That’s why we are the one site you can trust. So if the World Wide Web feels more like a spider’s web, or you need impartial, parent-friendly advice on the best protection software and gadgets, then why not visit the Child Internet Safety Hub to view our latest tips, hints, articles and stories – all brought to you with a little help from our friends.

The Home of Internet Safety for Children

http://www.childinternetsafety.co.uk/

HINTS & TIPS about staying safe online

A DIRECTORY OF PRODUCTS that are proven to protect families from online dangers

A Hub for children & grown ups

PLUS LOTS MORE!

Sir Tim of the web

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The latest cool apps for kids.
Three years ago, Fabrice Muamba, a talented, 24-year-old footballer playing for Bolton Wanderers, suffered a massive cardiac arrest 41 minutes into a televised FA Cup game between Bolton and Tottenham Hotspur. In front of 35,000 people at the ground and millions of viewers worldwide, medics, club physios, and cardiology consultant Dr Andrew Deaner – who’d been in the crowd – battled for eight minutes to restart Fabrice’s heart, before racing him off down the tunnel on a stretcher to hospital.

Shuana Magunda – Fabrice’s fiancée at the time, now his wife, Joshua, who was watching the game on TV. “Mummy, Daddy is frozen,” said Josh. After frantic phone calls, they set off to the hospital in London not knowing if Fabrice was alive or dead.

BY THAT POINT, FABRICE HAD TECHNICALLY BEEN DEAD FOR 78 MINUTES, AND VERY FEW PEOPLE HAVE SURVIVED FOR THAT LENGTH OF TIME WITHOUT ANY OXYGEN.

When star footballer Fabrice Muamba collapsed on the pitch after a massive cardiac arrest, his wife Shauna found support and strength in a surprising place. Gary Eastwood talks to Shauna about Twitter, Fabrice’s ‘incident’, and why social media can be so powerful and influential, especially for young people.

Back in the ambulance, the medics and Dr Deaner fought for Fabrice’s life, trying multiple times to restart his heart using a mixture of adrenaline, CPR, and a defibrillator – all to no avail. It would be a further 70 minutes before doctors at the London Chest Hospital would be able to get Fabrice’s heart beating again. By that point, the footballer had technically been dead for 78 minutes, and very few people have survived for that length of time without oxygen. Fewer still have emerged without suffering severe brain damage.

When Shauna arrived at the hospital, Fabrice was in a coma. During those first dark days, Shauna turned to her religious faith for strength. But another, more surprising, outlet provided her with extra support. Social media became Shauna’s connection to the outside world, helping her to communicate and draw enormous comfort from the thousands of concerned well-wishers on Twitter.

“Social media was the only access we had with the outside world at the time,” she says. “I couldn’t do interviews – or rather I refused to do them, because Fabrice was in a coma – so it was my way of communicating with the world.”

Social media became Shauna’s connection to the outside world, helping her to communicate and draw enormous comfort from the thousands of concerned well-wishers on Twitter.

It really helped us to tell people what was happening, and to reinforce the positivity that everyone was sending us in those early days.

It was during that uncertain time that Shauna tweeted the hashtag, #PrayforMuamba. The response was swift and overwhelming. “The support was amazing. It went absolutely viral. My Twitter account went straight away from 200 followers to 35,000 after tweeting the hashtag,” says Shauna.

Footballers around the world embraced the hashtag too and shared their support for Fabrice, including a cherished picture from multiple winner of the World Footballer of the Year, Lionel Messi, wearing a T-shirt bearing the words ‘Fabrice!!! We are Behind You’ before a Barcelona game. David Beckham tweeted his support from across the Atlantic, and many other Premier League and world footballers picked up on the tweet and responded by sending messages, and by wearing T-shirts emblazoned with ‘#PrayForMuamba’ during games.

But it was not just the football community that showed its support for Fabrice through social media. “We got
tweets from everyone, not just football fans. It helped me realise just how important Fabrice was to other people too. We got positive feedback from everyone, from people all over the world,” she says.

As everyone remembers, Fabrice eventually pulled through and when he emerged from the coma – just a few days after his dramatic on-pitch collapse – his first words were: “Where’s Josh?” As a sign of the times, it was social media that broke the news. After he uttered those first few words, his delighted fiancée tweeted: “All your prayers are working, thank you so much! To God be the glory!”

“The support and messages we got through social media made it feel like people were there, taking the journey with us, rather than watching it from a distance on TV,” she says today. “It felt like I wasn’t going through it alone, which really helped.”

Of course, social media can have a downside – as recent cases involving the criminal prosecution of abusive Twitter trolls has revealed. So did the Muambas receive any hate messages themselves? “Only one,” says Shauna. “But the mass outcry and positivity from everyone was so great that we didn’t have to do anything. The troll was quickly identified and prosecuted by the police without any intervention from us. Trolling is a very negative thing, but people shouldn’t give trolls the attention or time. Luckily, we had so much support that we didn’t focus on it or get involved.”

As Fabrice recovered, Twitter then became the Muambas’ way of thanking the thousands of people who had shared their support for Fabrice during his ordeal and his amazing recovery. Two weeks after Fabrice’s ‘incident’ (as he now calls it), Shauna posted a picture of him sitting up in his hospital bed in a blue hoodie. She added the message: “Fab wanted me to post this pic for you all and to also say thank you for such overwhelming support! The picture attracted a string of emotional responses from fans on the social network, and when Fabrice was discharged from hospital two weeks later TV presenter Gary Lineker wrote: “I see Fabrice Muamba has been released from hospital. How good is that? #miraculous.”

Miraculous indeed. Doctors have since discovered that Fabrice had an underlying condition called hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy, which has been responsible for the sudden death of many apparently fit, young athletes. They don’t have a definite answer to why Fabrice recovered so fully and so quickly, but he has been the subject of medical examinations and tests by doctors at Cardiff University in an attempt to understand the condition – and to gain insights into his amazing recovery.

As a result of his illness, Fabrice has to wear a pacemaker for the rest of his life, and sadly had to announce his retirement from football, the game that had been a major part of his life since childhood. But, rather than dwell on the ‘what ifs’, the Muambas’ positive attitude means that the family – which now numbers four, after the birth of their second son, Matthew, in June 2013 – is looking to the future with optimism. Fabrice is working towards a degree in Sports Journalism at Staffordshire University, and is an ambassador for Barclays’ LifeSkills programme, which helps young people gain vital job skills.

Meanwhile, Shauna – an accomplished cook – has launched a range of successful cooking sauces, Mrs Muamba’s Caribbean Sauces, and with the help of social media they’re going from strength to strength. “I now use social media a lot to promote my business. I use Twitter and Instagram daily and the digital marketing aspect really helps my business. It helps me interact with my customers, and I can reach customers in countries that I wouldn’t have been able to before. I also use social media to drive a lot of traffic to my online shop,” she explains.

The Muambas’ children are too young to use social media yet, and Shauna is understandably cautious about them using the Internet. “Look, who is now five, has an iPad and uses it to play games and watch movies chosen by us,” she says. “But as the Muambas’ experience with the troll testifies, the family is increasingly aware of the ‘nasties’ lurking online. On that point, Shauna is keen to praise the initiatives like CIS are so important for parents and children.”

CIS initiative: “Before hearing about this magazine, I don’t think as a parent I fully understood how easy it is for children to access things that they shouldn’t see on the Internet. I think CIS magazine is a wonderful initiative to help raise awareness. I must admit I wouldn’t know who to turn to for relevant information or help if someone was trolling, which is why initiatives like CIS are so important for parents and children.”

She adds: “As the boys get older we will need to ensure that we have parental settings on, and that we know what they’re doing online, what they are accessing, and who they’re talking to. Social media and the Internet can be a very positive experience for many people, and it certainly helped us through a difficult time. But on the flip side, people need to be more aware of the dangers, particularly what their children are doing online, and who they are talking to.”

But that is a concern for the future. For now, the Muambas are just thankful for what they have.
On 10th February, millions of people across the UK and globally will be celebrating Safer Internet Day. It's a great opportunity to talk with your children about the safe and positive use of technology, and to share a smile to help create a kinder online community.

Technology has become an integral part of childhood. Children are excited and inspired by technology, and are learning to navigate websites, online games, consoles, and touchscreen technology from a very young age. Although children may seem literate and confident in their use of technology, parents have the experience and life skills and so have a key role to play in ensuring young people are safe online. In fact, children say that their parents or carers are their number one person to turn to for support online, so it is important for parents to know how to respond and feel comfortable in setting boundaries for their children. However, starting that conversation can sometimes be daunting. To support parents in having these conversations, the UK Safer Internet Centre has produced a range of 'conversation starters' for Safer Internet Day (see facing page).

My top tips for dealing with cyberbullying:

- Don't retaliate; it just gives people exposure that they don't deserve and can lead to further abuse. Instead, you should report abusive comments and block the person sending them. It's important to keep evidence, such as screenshots of abusive messages. If they break the law – for example threats or hate speech – then they need to be reported to the police.
- Don't deal with it alone; tell a friend, parent, carer, family member, or teacher. I've always found it helpful to speak to someone supportive. If you don't have anyone you feel you can talk too openly, services like Childline have trained counsellors who can help.

CIS magazine partner content
Safer Internet Day 2015 is coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre and sees hundreds of organisations get involved to promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology for children and young people.

Last year, over 650 organisations supported Safer Internet Day by running activities or spreading the word. With the support of organisations such as the BBC, Disney, UK Government, Facebook, Twitter, Google, BT, Sky, NSPCC, Girlguiding, the Scouts Association and the FA, as well as over 350 schools from across the UK, the campaign reached 25 per cent of UK children, 18 per cent of teens, and 10 per cent of parents.

This year's theme is 'Let's create a better internet together'. The UK Safer Internet Centre wants everyone to think about what their role is in helping to do that.

Having this conversation with your child is key to help them understand the challenges of childhood friendships online and offline and educate young people that the same rules of friendship apply online. This will empower young people to form kinder online communities and make the most of the positive opportunities the internet has to offer.

Have a conversation with your child this Safer Internet Day

"Although children may seem literate and confident in their use of technology, parents have the experience and life skills and so have a key role to play in ensuring young people are safe online. In fact, children say that their parents or carers are their number one person to turn to for support online, so it is important for parents to know how to respond and feel comfortable in setting boundaries for their children. However, starting that conversation can sometimes be daunting. To support parents in having these conversations, the UK Safer Internet Centre has produced a range of ‘conversation starters’ for Safer Internet Day (see facing page)."

"I'm PROUD to support Safer Internet Day 2015!"

Beth Tweddle, Olympic Gymnast

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- Perhaps they can show you how to do something better online or they might have a friend who would benefit from their help and support.
- Ask your child if they know where to go for help, where to find safety advice or privacy settings, and how to report or block problem content on the services they use.
- Think about how much of you uses the internet. What more could you do together? Are there online activities you could enjoy as a family?
- Ask them to tell you how they stay safe online. What tips do they have for you to deal with online issues, and where did they learn them?

"Why I'm supporting Safer Internet Day"

I got involved in Safer Internet Day 2014 after I was sent some abusive messages during a live Twitter Q&A, which were then picked up in the media. I felt it was my responsibility to turn my experience into something positive, so I became an ambassador for the UK Safer Internet Centre. I want to help young people understand how to deal with abuse online and to make them realise that they’re not alone.

"I'm PROUD to support Safer Internet Day 2015!"

Beth Tweddle, Olympic Gymnast

Help make SID2015 THE BIGGEST ONE YET!

Encourage your local school or workplace to run activities for young people, parents and carers – find out more about how they can get involved at www.saferinternetday.org.uk.

Promote the day on social media using #SID2015 – share a smile and help create a kinder internet.

Visit The Hub - www.childinternetsafety.co.uk
Brighton & Hove is traditionally called ‘London on Sea’, not least because so many of its residents either used to live in the capital, or still work there. Unlike many seaside towns (officially it’s a city), it has a thriving local economy, including a large sector of digital enterprises, new media startups, web designers and games developers, among countless other local businesses. It also has the UK’s only Green MP, Caroline Lucas.

But does its reputation for tolerance, innovation and ‘anything goes’ mean that it’s child friendly and has got internet safety covered?

From a cultural and leisure perspective, you’d be hard pushed to find a city that’s more popular with families than Brighton & Hove. Adults know all about it, and it has much to offer both young children and teens, all of whom are entranced by its brash and obvious charms, not to mention its thriving arts scene, independent shops, buskers, skaters and street performers.

But where does it stand on the internet?

Many of its hundreds of independent cafes and other public spaces offer free wifi, and have done for years. Wifi is – local legend has it – also offered on the beach. But to the best of our knowledge and research, much of the free internet access offered within Brighton & Hove’s establishments leaves safe internet searching up to the visitor’s own stored preferences.

Brighton & Hove Council, and many community groups locally, provide good online guidance for families visiting with children. For example, Child Friendly Brighton (www.childfriendlybrighton.co.uk) is an excellent resource listing a huge range of activities, and it promotes Safer Internet Day.

Local charity Safety Net (www.safety-net.org.uk) was established in the Nineties by residents of one housing estate who wanted to prevent child abuse. Since then, it has grown into a vibrant city-wide organisation that promotes and provides training in safe internet access, protective behaviours, safe journeys to school, and much more besides.

It hosts Safety Net for Kids, a protective website designed especially for children (www.safetynetkids.org.uk), and it has delivered assemblies and workshops on internet safety to nearly 3,000 kids locally. Safety Net’s director, Terri Fletcher, is the elected representative for the community and voluntary sector on the Local Children’s Safeguarding Board (LCSB).

Brighton’s LCSB (www.brightonandhovecsb.org.uk) is a well-presented portal of local and national information on children’s safety in both the real and virtual worlds. Its internet safety page promotes organisations such as the UK Safer Internet Centre (www.saferinternet.org.uk), and Think U Know (www.thinkuknow.co.uk), among others, but it lacks any obvious information about local internet access policies within Brighton & Hove itself. An oversight.

The portal also promotes national and international organisations such as Kidscape (www.kidscape.org.uk), Chatdanger (www.chatdanger.com), and Childnet (www.childnet.com), and a small number of local groups, such as the WISE Project.

The WISE project itself (www.sussexcentralymca.org.uk/information_advice_support/wise_project) is run by one of Brighton’s many YMCA’s, and aims to help 13-25 year-olds who are either suffering from, or at risk from, sexual exploitation.

“You’d be hard pushed to find a city that’s more popular with families than Brighton. But its many helpful websites lack obvious information about local access policies.”

#WePROTECT Summit

In December, Prime Minister David Cameron and Home Secretary Theresa May spoke at the WeProtect Children Online summit in London about the need for governments worldwide to unite and share information to help eliminate child exploitation, abuse, and pornography. The PM spoke out on child internet safety as he launched an international crackdown on the evils of child exploitation and images of abuse. He also unveiled a package of new measures, including the creation of a new offence of soliciting indecent images from minors. GCHQ will help in the fight against the spread of abuse images via the so-called ‘dark net’.

FACEBOOK FLAGS

Facebook will place clickable warnings over extreme and graphic content on its site. The warning flags will be placed with hashtags, emojis and videos, and ask the user: ‘Are you sure you want to see this?’ However, no content containing the warnings will be viewable by anyone under 18 years old. The flags have been in place since December, and provide another layer of protection for younger users of the site.

BYTESized Industry News

NSPCC Share Aware

The NSPCC’s new Share Aware campaign aims to help parents talk to their children about their safety on social networks. The campaign provides no-nonsense advice for parents of 9- to 12-year-old children, after a panel of 500 parents found that adult social media sites were easy for children under 13 to sign up to, and often contained inappropriate content. The NSPCC also asked 2,000 children about their concerns, with talking to strangers and sexual content being their main worries.

Sextortion rising

The global rise of ‘sextortion’ – blackmail via the internet and mobile devices – was underlined in December and January in a number of teen-related cases. Among these, the BBC traced two Filipino men in Manila suspected of blackmailing Scottish teenager Daniel Perry, who took his own life in July 2013. Daniel had taken part in an explicit Skype chat with someone he believed to be a girl of his own age. Gangs often pose as women and target young men.
Sago Mini Fairy Tales

Sago Sago are known for creating great apps specifically for pre-school children and their latest offering, Sago Mini Fairy Tales, released on Christmas Day, is no different. The app brings fairy tales and nursery rhymes to life as young players fly through a magical forest full of familiar characters from well-known tales and rhymes on a fairy-winged cat called Jinja. The game offers around 30 characters, including a baby dragon, a frog prince, Humpty Dumpty, Cinderella, and Rapunzel, with whom players interact and discover. Jinja can also be turned into a princess and offers a safe and fun introduction to the digital world, rewarding exploration and touch. The app is available for the iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad and costs £1.99.

Mickey’s Magical Maths World

This latest app from Disney Imagicademy is aimed at three- to six-year-olds, and features Mickey Mouse and his friends Minnie, Donald Duck, Daisy and Goofy who present a collection of five mathematical mini-games. The gang head into space to help run an alien resort headed up by Uncle Scrooge, and along the way players have to solve different fun math and logic problems, involving deep-walking aliens, robots and Goofy’s intergalactic recycling machine. The game makes learning early maths skills fun and immersive for kids, including counting from 1 to 10 (and back again), exploring simple addition and subtraction, and using reasoning and logic to solve problems. The first few levels of maths activities are free, but parents can pay to unlock more levels and games in each level, with different activities costing £2.99 individually, or larger bundles from £8.99.

Winky Think Logic Puzzles

Winky Think Logic Puzzles provides a great mental workout for primary school children, although players of all ages will find something to challenge them! The app offers three levels of difficulty, with each containing 60 logic and reasoning puzzles, from simple matching games to complex puzzles packed with obstacles, mazes and multi-touch action. The progressive design of the game allows children to progress at their own pace, starting from easy sliding games to figuring out how to change the colour of a shape to get it through a barrier. The app teaches core mathematical concepts in a fun and exciting way, and will help them to reason abstractly and quantitatively, use strategic tools, develop precision, persevere in problem solving and look for and manipulate structure. Costs £2.99.

ScratchJr

With computer programming skills and algorithmic thinking now part of the curriculum for primary school children, these two new apps make learning simple coding fun and accessible. ScratchJr was developed by a team at MIT and is based on the popular programming language, Scratch, used by children over eight years old around the world, and is now available on the iPad. It gets children programming their own interactive stories and games. By sliding blocks of code together they can make characters move, jump, dance and sing, in the process learning to solve problems, design projects and express themselves creatively on a computer. The app is free. Likewise, Tynder another programming app for children is free, and is designed to help them practice their coding skills at home.

Curious Words

Made by another excellent app developer, Curious Hat, Curious Words turns your child into a budding film-maker. The app is based on making one-second videos based on random words, and then automatically creates a unique and personalised film, along with voice-over and beautiful music. The app stimulates children to look around, explore the environment and find inspiration in people, objects, structures and nature, and is so is ideal for getting children out and about, instead of just staring at the screen for hours on end. Great fun for all the family! Costs £1.49.

Silent Text 2

Silent Text is a free, secure (encrypted) texting app for anyone who wants to keep prying eyes off private chats. The maker, Silent Circle, vows to keep users’ data secure and private as it cannot itself decrypt the messages. Older teenagers will love it, but parents will be alarmed at the implications. CIS warns that its safe usage depends on users being fully aware and informed of the dangers of chatting online. See out articles on online and cyber-bullying for why Free to download. Add-ons are paid for.

CONSIDERATION PAID TO:

– Which apps are suitable for what age group?
– What is the content and level of the games?
– Is there an educational value?
– How much does it cost?
RM SafeClix

The Internet has unlocked countless possibilities in the classroom. It has enabled learning to be more personalised and creative, and teaching more interactive and flexible. With the Internet now playing such a vital role in today’s education, online safety is a feature of a school’s safeguarding framework.

Complete peace of mind for your school.

The Internet: Enjoy, Embrace & Educate

One-stop shop
Meeting Ofsted requirements
Whole School
Community protection

One of the most common questions we hear is how to safeguard your school online. We have created RM SafeClix to help you put a tick next to those Ofsted requirements and help your school excel in safeguarding online.

To talk to one of our connectivity experts please call us on 0800 469 802 or visit www.rm.com/safeclix
Twenty-five years ago, a quiet man called Tim changed the world. On the face of it, his idea for improving information management at a Swiss particle physics laboratory (CERN) might not seem like the type of earth-shattering invention that might change the lives of everyone on the planet. But generation-defining innovations rarely arrive with fireworks and fanfares, they emerge quietly in back rooms and labs. In this case, the idea had even more unlikely beginnings: Tim sent it in a humble memo that stayed in his boss’s in-tray for months.

Today, fortunately for us, that man is known as Sir Tim Berners-Lee – or ‘TimBL’ – the man who invented the World Wide Web, the ‘www’ that appears in your browser window. It’s the dynamic linkage of documents, including text, images, video or sound, to other documents over the global network of computers we call the internet.

“It seems incredible to me that it was 25 years ago that I wrote that memo about the World Wide Web,” he said at the IP EXPO event in October, where CIS met the great man. “I had this idea, this itch. I wrote the memo about it in 1989, but no one picked up on it. Nothing happened!”

He was knighted in 2004, and his work was also acknowledged during the opening ceremony of the 2012 London Olympic Games, in which he appeared using a vintage NeXT computer, the same as the one he used in 1989. Today, he heads standards body the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), and works at MIT and the University of Southampton, among other respected institutions.

“One thing to do is to move to a world in which we have better ideas about the appropriate use of data.”
Sir Tim Berners-Lee
The Internet: Enjoy, Embrace & Educate

It’s important to remember that the future is something we build.
A cool future isn’t something that we can just sit there waiting to happen. You’re the people who are going to build it!

The medium has got to be neutral.
The platform doesn’t have any attitude about what you do with it.

Sir Tim Berners-Lee

“Companies should be more transparent about what they do...for example by actively informing them about how their private information will be used, and for what purpose.”

Sir Tim is a principled man and an inspiring advocate of free speech. That’s no surprise: information sharing is what the Web’s always been about, and so information sharing is what the Web always was.

So it’s surprising to find out that Sir Tim rejects the idea that privacy is dead (as many technology commentators have claimed) and dismisses the notion that people should have no rights over data that reveals their private lives. “Privacy is important,” he said. “People say ‘privacy is dead, get over it’. I don’t agree. The idea that privacy is dead is hopeless and sad. We have to build systems that allow for privacy.”

Think about how you function as a family, as a group. You function by having an information boundary that describes that group. It’s the only way society works, or a family works. We need to move towards a new world where people work socially.

The Web allows children to explore every aspect of their world from a screen

Every aspect of our lives has been affected in some way by the World Wide Web. Despite that, Sir Tim remains a modest man – who makes sudden movements when he talks, as if his whole body is so full of ideas that they’re just bursting out of him. The impact of that energy is everywhere around us; in the new ways that we learn, play, work, shop, travel, and share our news. The Web allows children to explore every aspect of the world from their screens, and us to share that experience with them and with each other.

But despite his influence on our lives so far, Sir Tim doesn’t see a role for himself in the fortune-telling business: “I don’t like giving predictions,” he said. “I prefer to say what I’d like to happen. The future is something we build. A cool future isn’t something that we can just sit there waiting to happen. You’re the people who are going to build it.”

For Sir Tim (who turns 60 this year) and for today’s Web-savvy youngsters, openness, information sharing and neutrality – the fact that no organisation or country owns or controls the internet – are essential for the Web to keep flourishing. And that means it’s irrelevant whether the information that people share on it is ‘ethical’ or ‘unethical’, he said – an idea that makes parents nervous about the types of content that their children might see, share, or make.

“The Web is like a blank sheet of paper. If you had an ‘ethical web’ where you could only do nice things, it would be like having paper you couldn’t write certain text on, or you couldn’t write nasty poems on. Yes, you’d find people using it for nasty things, but also people using it for wonderful things. You see humanity in general on the Web, and in general I am hopeful.”

The medium has got to be neutral.
The platform doesn’t have any attitude about what you do with it.

Sir Tim Berners-Lee

Other famous Tims

While Sir Tim Berners-Lee might have had the greatest impact on our world, there have been a lot more famous Tims and Timothys than you might think. Among the many are: actors Tim Robbins, Tim Roth, Tim Allen, Tim Russ, Tim Curry, Tim Pigott-Smith, Timothy Spall, Timothy Dalton, Timothy Olyphant, Timothy West, and Timothy Hutton; film director Tim Burton; comedians Tim Minchin, Tim Vine, and Tim Brooke-Taylor; tennis player Tim Henman; musicians Tim Finn, Tim Minchin, Tim Finn, Tim Booth; and painters Tim Allen and Tim Westwood. And let’s not forget Apple CEO Tim Cook, head of one of the most successful companies in world business history.
THE INTERNET: ENJOY, EMBRACE & EDUCATE

So what does Sir Tim make of moves to force internet companies to erase data from the public domain, by removing links to stories that, for a variety of reasons, someone might want to hide from the public? CIS magazine asked Sir Tim for his thoughts.

“I spend half my time here [in the UK] and half my time in the States, and the ‘Right to be Forgotten’ is viewed very differently on the two sides of the Atlantic,” he said. “On the US side, free speech is such a fundamental part of the American constitution that the idea that you could take down something that is true would be an anathema. People find that horrific. But if something isn’t true, then a right for something to be removed, to be taken down [might be viable]. Plus we have slander laws and libel laws that already exist.

“But there’s an interesting area in the middle: what if something’s true, but, you know what, we would like that to be water under the bridge? What if, for example, on social networking there’s this picture that I took of myself when I was a minor? Now I’m a grown up applying for a job and I’m embarrassed by it. One thing to do is to move to a world in which we have better ideas about the appropriate use of data.

Supposing that I apply for that job and my employer says, ‘Do you want us to look at your social networking stuff from when you were a minor?’

I think it would be a better world if you could write that stuff off. Employers should be bound by the duty of their posts to ignore all of that. But we’re not talking about the Right to be Forgotten, we’re talking about a right for information not to be used. We’re not saying that the information itself shouldn’t exist, we’re talking about the right for information to only be used for appropriate purposes.

That’s the right world: the appropriate use of data. That’s the world that I’d like to build towards in the future.”

Despite his plea for openness, Sir Tim also believes that individuals should own any data that describes them personally and be able to decide how other people use it. “I don’t want companies to use my medical data, for instance, to sell me insurance products,” he said. “But if I’m in a car accident, I want my doctor to be able to access any data he needs instantly.”

Companies should be more transparent about what they do, he told delegates at the IP EXPO event, and must show greater respect for people’s privacy – for example by actively informing them about how their private information will be used and for what purpose. “Turn tracking around,” he urged. “Make it something that we do to the people who use our data. He believes that this level of openness and transparency would breed greater trust. Sir Tim believes that these things are vital to get right today because of the likely impact of our decisions in the future, when our world will increasingly be governed by artificial intelligence, by computers talking to each other – in many cases, about us.

For parents, it’s amazing to think that no one under the age of 25 has known a world without the Web. They’re sometimes called the ‘millennials’, the ‘digital natives’: young people whose own creativity will doubtless change the world again in ways we can’t yet imagine.

[Consultant Richard Freeman shares some interesting views about this, opposite.] And, as we’ve already explored, they’ve started sharing their lives on social media, recording everything that they do. That culture change has occurred within every teenager’s lifetime. As a result, those parts of the world that move more slowly than technology, such as national governments and law enforcement agencies, are still playing catch-up, by the time that we’re used to – most of whom, like Sir Tim, could walk down the street unrecognised.

But the truth is that most children now exist.

“One thing to do is to move to a world in which we have better ideas about the appropriate use of data.”

― The Hub - www.childinternetsafety.co.uk

Visit the Hub - www.childinternetsafety.co.uk

You may remember the 70s and 80s craze for three-inch plastic figurines with brightly coloured, teardrop-shaped hair. These are still a big hit with children (my five-year-old included), but they’re no longer called Trolls. Because to be called a troll in 2014 means to be someone who uses the internet to pick a fight – and who wants their kids playing with those?

But the truth is that most children aged 10 and above, who actively use the internet, are already engaged with some of its darker spaces, and in some cases battling the trolls. Bullying is bullying, in whatever space it occupies, but our growing dependence on cyber connectivity means that bullying now has the potential to claim more space and time.

For most teenagers, social media and internet use is a permanent and constant affirmation, solidarity and coded conversation without the usual awkwardness of in-the-flesh body consciousness. A naturally self-conscious age group has the capacity to be a very big and influential social space without breaking up from the palm of their hand. But with great power comes, as world-weary grown-ups know, great responsibility.

Cyber-bullying continues beyond the school gates, the park and the shopping centre and, as a result, it takes up much more psychological space.

Cyber-bullying continues beyond the school gates, the park and the shopping centre and, as a result, it takes up much more psychological space. A bully with internet access can issue a humiliating Facebook status or an aggressive Tweet, or share unflattering pictures of others. To join in, the key to a bully’s power is quite how public, permanent and pervasive these activities are. And how easy – and often, how anonymous.

Having worked with teenagers for over 10 years, many of whom are already vulnerable through psychological or emotional bullying barriers, I see what an effect these online power struggles can have on everyday engagement.

Students will miss a class for fear of what peers have seen or discussed on internet forums. Girls and boys are exhausted by staying up all night fighting for control of a particular issue via their smartphones. Of the harassment cases I see in my role as a safeguarding specialist, over 75 per cent were started by an aggressive online act. Teachers, parents, wider family members, youth workers and social workers all have a duty of care to tackle cyber-bullying in exactly the same way that physical or psychological face-to-face bullies would be addressed. School and college policies on challenging bullying should change because the platform is different; the principles, sanctions and support needed to undertake such actions is needed.

But where much greater care and training is needed is for supporting young people to build their own parameters and to take back control of the dark spaces – and, just as important, to know when to switch off, to be mindful, and to recognise how one space is different from another.

As parents, it’s easy to think that our children – those ‘digital natives’ we read so much about – know more than we do about the internet. But while today’s young people have grown up with social media and mobile phones, knowing technically how an app, blog or platform works is a very different thing to understanding the impact of making their personal views public.

Authoritative figures may, often rightly, be excluded from interacting with a teenager’s network. That means the need is even greater to empower them to use it safely, to understand the risks and foresee the consequences. If those skills and the confidence to act young, then this is a fighting chance that trolls could be creatures of myth once again.

Richard Freeman is a Learning, Leadership & Creativity Consultant with 15 years’ experience of arts and education project management. Richard has led teams of youth workers, teachers and creative workshop facilitators, and is a specialist in safeguarding, work-related learning and engaging hard-to-reach young people. richard@alwayspossible.co.uk

Key to the cyber-bully’s power is quite how public, permanent and pervasive these activities are.

A bully can issue a humiliating Facebook status or a passive-aggressive Tweet, or share unflattering pictures and incite others to join in.
Mobile Force Field is the world’s first mobile device software that provides significant protection against cyber-bullying and online inappropriate content.

Child Safety Software Providers - Cyber Crisis Facing Modern Children

Mobile Force Field commissioned a study into the dangers faced by children online and the results are shocking.

Professor Geoff Beattie produced a white paper examining the issues and crucially the way previous studies have been produced.

He fears that unlimited access to pornography and the effects of cyber bullying may have significant psychological effects on a whole generation of youngsters.

Professor Beattie said, "It is not new to suggest children are at increasing risk to the dangers of the internet but those dangers are potentially much greater than any of us had previously imagined."

"We need to act before it's too late to protect our children."

Mike Green, Head of CITC, said: “The CITC Foundation works with more than 45,000 young people across Greater Manchester every year, providing support in a variety of areas including football and multi-sport, health and education and community cohesion.

“We use mobile tablets in schools and youth projects to deliver our health and educational projects and ensuring the safety of the young people is a top priority.

"It’s great to know that once installed on our tablets, the internet will be a safe place for young people.”

Children Without Frontiers - Cyber Crisis Facing Modern Children

Mobile Force Field is an invaluable tool in the battle to keep children safe online.

The Macclesfield-based MP insists the child safety app is vital for parents as they attempt to negotiate the minefield of modern mobile technology.

Mr Rutley said: “Mobile technology does have a darker side and products like this provide tools not only for parents and for young people to block out adult and inappropriate content, and at the same time enable parents to keep a closer eye on what’s happening in the lives of their children.

"This tool is helping many families in and around Macclesfield and Manchester to combat some of the challenges that mobile technology presents today."

"Parents, myself included, need to be a lot more aware of how we can help young people safely navigate the digital world and we need in place for schools and elsewhere, we have to wake up, and tools like this can help us better combat the darker side of digital technology.”

More Children Online Means Risk Greater Than Ever

Record Tablet Sales Leave Youngsters Exposed

Perhaps it is a little premature to forecast the downfall of the iPad, but there is little doubt that the tide is turning in favour of Android devices.

Cheaper, easily accessible and capable of providing everything required by the younger tablet user, the Android tablet makes absolute sense to parents looking to introduce their child to the wonders of the internet.

Not any more are that Christmas 2014 produced record tablet sales ensuring more children than ever before now have access to the web via mobile devices.

Ofcom’s ‘Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes’ Report of 2014 suggests that tablets are now replacing televisions in children’s bedrooms and confirms that more than a third of five- to 19-year-olds own their own tablet and users are becoming ever younger, with 31 per cent of children aged three- to four-years-old now owning a tablet.

But what are we doing to protect this new generation of online tots?

Parental restrictions on home routers help, but mobile devices are exactly that: mobile. Free wi-fi hotspots on buses, trains, in cafes, restaurants, hotels and public places make it impossible for parents and teachers to properly monitor internet usage.

Not any more thanks to four British fathers and Mobile Force Field, an innovation solution that provides proactive protection exclusively for Android devices.

“Mobile Force Field is a software application that once installed works to take preventative steps when children use mobile devices wherever, however they connect to the internet – effectively shielding their eyes from anything they shouldn’t see,” said Founder and Managing Director Matt Archer, the MD of successful IT and Networking business IC P Networks, who is leading force behind the creation of Mobile Force Field.

He explained: “We are supposed to protect children from danger, yet, in 2014, tablets and smartphones allow them unrestricted access to a ‘virtual’ world.

“Wouldn’t it allow a total stranger into our homes to spend time with our children, so why should we turn a blind eye to the dangers online? We decided something had to be done and set about creating a solution to the global issue.”

Mobile Force Field is the world’s first mobile device software that provides preventative protection against cyber-bullying, sexting, online grooming, and access to unsuitable websites.

Mobile Force Field blocks more than four million websites and more than 1,000 apps and browsers that could include age-inappropriate content.

Arch, added: “We want our children to be able to take advantage of the wonderful advances in technology, but only if they can be protected from harm. There was nothing out there.

“There are spying applications that allow parents to monitor what their children have been doing, but the point is that those apps are intrusive and, more importantly, too late; they are ‘after-the-event’ apps and the damage has already been done.”

Mobile Force Field is a family tool that only steps in when a threat is sensed, a ‘virtual’ car safety belt for children using the internet. It isn’t meant to restrict or pry on their behaviour, just to keep them safe from harm, and this is particularly important when children begin to use mobile devices for the first time.”

For more details log on: www.mobileforcefield.com

MP Hails Mobile Force Field ‘Invaluable Tool For Parents’

MP David Rutley claims Mobile Force Field is an ‘invaluable tool’ in the battle to keep children safe online.

The Macclesfield-based MP insists the child safety app is vital for parents as they attempt to negotiate the minefield of modern mobile technology.

Mr Rutley said: “Mobile technology does have a darker side and products like this provide tools not only for parents and for young people to block out adult and inappropriate content, and at the same time enable parents to keep a closer eye on what’s happening in the lives of their children.

“Parents, myself included, need to be a lot more aware of how we can help young people safely navigate the digital world and we need in place for schools and elsewhere, we have to wake up, and tools like this can help us better combat the darker side of digital technology.”

Award winning actress Suranne Jones has teamed up with Mobile Force Field inspired by her own memories of being bullied as a child.

The former Coronation Street favourite and star of TV hit Scott and Bailey has joined forces with the child safety software developers to show parents how the software helps them protect their children.

See the video at Mobile Force Field.com
THE INTERNET: ENJOY, EMBRACE & EDUCATE

The Dangers of Sexting

Sexting is increasingly seen as ‘normal behaviour’ by nearly half of 13-25 year olds, but it can have devastating consequences when things go wrong. Gary Eastwood reports

What do Jennifer Lawrence, Rihanna, and Kim Kardashian all have in common? Answer: They have all had intimate images of themselves shared online without their consent. But it’s not just celebrities that are in danger of having private images illegally distributed. The danger may be much closer to home than you realise

So-called ‘revenge porn’ and ‘sexting’ have become such problems in the UK that legislation is currently being pushed through Parliament to deal with them. Revenge porn is the act of sharing or distributing sexual images – stills or video – of a former partner without their consent, with the intention of causing distress. Sexting, meanwhile, is the sending of self-generated explicit texts and pictures via mobiles, or via webcams over the internet. The new legislation applies to images posted on social media, as well as those shared via email, text, website, or physical copies.

For parents, it’s easy to dismiss these things as in danger of ending up on the internet and having their intimate images illegally distributed. The legislation is currently being pushed through Parliament to deal with them. Revenge porn is the act of sharing or distributing sexual images – stills or video – of a former partner without their consent, with the intention of causing distress. Sexting, meanwhile, is the sending of self-generated explicit texts and pictures via mobiles, or via webcams over the internet. The new legislation applies to images posted on social media, as well as those shared via email, text, website, or physical copies.

For parents, it’s easy to dismiss these things as normal. But as the research proves, a lack of awareness, naivety about the dangers, and peer pressure are forcing many children into doing it simply because everyone else is.

The Wireless Report reveals the damaging impact of malicious or non-consensual sexting. According to the study, 24 per cent of teenagers have been targeted, 10 per cent abused drugs

Empowering Parents, Protecting Children

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DID YOU KNOW?

24 per cent of teenagers have shared a naked image with someone they only know online.

For most, sexting may well seem to be ‘harmless fun’, but as the research proves, a lack of awareness, naivety about the dangers, and peer pressure are forcing many children into doing it simply because everyone else is.

For example, a girl might send a topless photo of herself to a current or former partner, or simply to someone she likes. For example, a girl might send a topless photo of herself to a current or former partner, or simply to someone she likes. When asked why they sexted, just 13 per cent felt ‘pressurised into doing it’. Five per cent said they did it simply ‘to be popular’. All teenagers are naturally curious about sex, and a majority (63 per cent) know online.

The study of 2,732 people aged between 13 and 25 years old found that 37 per cent have sent a naked photo of themselves via a smartphone app, and that 30 per cent of 15-year-olds, and 15 per cent of 13-14 year olds, do so at least once a week. Females are twice as likely as males to send a naked photo of themselves more than once a week. Alarmingly, 24 per cent have shared a naked image with someone they only know online.

When asked why they sexted, just under half (49 per cent) of respondents said they considered it to be ‘just harmless fun’. But not everyone felt that way. For example, 16 per cent said they did it because ‘everybody does’, 14 per cent ‘to get someone to notice me’, and 13 per cent felt ‘pressurised into doing it’. Five per cent said they did it simply ‘to be popular’.

All teenagers are naturally curious about sex, and a majority (63 per cent) know online. But serious problems arise when ‘sexts’ are sent either to someone the person doesn’t know well, when images are taken maliciously by a bully, or when trust is broken by the recipient – for example, by showing the image to his or her friends. According to Ditch the Label, 24 per cent and/or alcohol, and two per cent began sharing naked photos of others without their consent, perpetuating a negative cycle of learned behaviours.

Discussing sexual matters with children is a notoriously tough subject for all parents and educators, particularly at a time of heightened sensitivity about the subject. But given how widespread these behaviours are – and the impact they’re demonstrably having on children when things go wrong – it’s vital that adults explain the risks of sexting and how to stay safe, and reassure young people that there is someone to talk to if anything makes them feel scared or uncomfortable. But the challenge is that many children, especially teenagers, just don’t regard sexting as a problem and are reluctant to talk to adults about it because they’re afraid of having their phones taken away from them.

If a young person has been a victim of malicious sexting, it’s essential that parents don’t get angry with, or blame, their child, says the NSPCC. Victims will already be feeling alone, judged, and ashamed, so it’s crucial that parents provide a supportive, non-judgemental environment in which to help them cope.

Each child will react differently, and so a normal parenting style is key when broaching the subject. Ideally, parents should outline their expectations from the get-go when giving a child their first mobile device, in terms of how they use it and the types of apps they can download. Many devices offer parental controls that allow parents to monitor how their child uses them – which is useful for younger age groups. Providers such as O2, EE, Vodafone, and Three offer parental controls, so contact them for details. However, older children may resent being monitored, which could lead to more secretive behaviour.

Parents should outline their boundaries for acceptable behaviour. One strategy

TOP RESOURCES

NSPCC
www.nspcc.org.uk/existing

The Wireless Report 2014
www.ditchthelabel.org

CEOP ‘Exposed’ video
www.youtube.com/watch?v=9uJOXOAQ9Qo

Childline
www.childline.org.uk

ThinkUKnow
www.thinkuknow.co.uk/14-plus/mead-eddica/selfish-and-sexting

www.ditchthelabel.org

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) http://ceop.police.uk

www.youtube.com/watch?v=9uJOXOAQ9Qo

http://ceop.police.uk

The Internet: Enjoy, Embrace & Educate

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While the age of consent is 16, distributing images of anyone below the age of 18 is an offence under child pornography laws. This means that any children who do so risk being labelled as sex offenders.

is to ask children what things they think are acceptable to share. For example, would they share a particular image with their grandparents or parents? If not, then suggest that it might not be appropriate material to share with anyone.

The ‘billboard test’ is a clever strategy: ask a child how they would feel if someone put a private image of them on a poster or a street sign. Then tell them that sexting an image of themselves to another person may give them exactly the same level of exposure. With the internet, always assume that something will become public.

ChildLine offers a free app, called Zipit, which gives children and teenagers alternative images that they can send in response to requests for sexts. Examples include a pair of bluetits with the caption ‘Here you go’, a computer screen displaying the message ‘It ain’t happenin’, or a black image with just two eyes saying: ‘I forgot to put the light on’.

Meanwhile, the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP), a National Crime Agency, has created a seven-minute video, called ‘Exposed’, aimed at teenagers aged 14-18, warning them of the dangers of sexting.

The NSPCC advises all parents to give children the confidence to say ‘No’ to anything that they’re uncomfortable with. Children should be made aware that their bodies are private. But parents should also reassure children that they can discuss anything that they’re uncomfortable about, and that support is there if they’re feeling pressed.

But there’s another dimension to this. While the age of consent may be 16, distributing images of anyone below the age of 18 is an offence under child pornography laws. This means that any children who do so risk being labelled as sex offenders.

It’s a genuine problem. Recently, a 16-year-old boy and his then-girlfriend received a caution from Nottinghamshire Police under child pornography legislation – which will appear on their police records. The boy shared a naked photo of the girl with his friends when the relationship ended, and was cautioned for distributing a pornographic image of a minor. The girl was also cautioned for supplying it: a reminder of just how serious the issue can be.

Of course, if you find out that your own child has been ‘sexting’, they’re likely to be anxious about talking to you. Where possible, give yourself time to process this information and remember that your child will be closely watching your response. Be mindful that they may be being bullied (see box, opposite: What to do if your child has been affected by sexting). Banning the use of a mobile is not the best solution, and is likely to lead to further problems.
A loss of childhood innocence

The latest installment of our AVG Digital Diaries research – a series that explores the impact technology is having on our lives and the lives of our families – does just that. We asked over 5,000 parents globally for their thoughts on how technology is effecting childhood innocence and the results were alarming:

Parents blame the internet for forcing them to have the ‘bird and bees’ conversation with their child at an increasingly early age. Four out of every five (80 per cent) parents blame the internet for forcing them to discuss the facts of life with their children as a much younger age – in fact, most confirmed that they had spoken to their child by the age of ten years old.

Porn has overtaken sex as the most difficult discussion for parents to have with their children. Over half (54 per cent) of those we asked cited porn as the most uncomfortable discussion to have with their kids.

Most parents believe their child’s knowledge of the internet overtakes theirs by the time they reach their tweens. The majority of parents admitted that by 12 years old their child knows more about the internet than they do, while one in five (19 per cent) said that this had or would have already happened by the age of nine.

Managing your child’s online journey

The worrying repercussion of all this is that although kids are ‘technically’ mature enough to access this information, they have not developed the equivalent intellectual – or emotional – maturity necessary to make the right decisions. The underlying result of this is that teens can find themselves in complex social situations online that require adult reasoning well before they’re ready. In fact, as part of the research, we interviewed children to assess their digital maturity and found that over six in 10 either did not believe or were not sure whether there were dangers online.

With the new IT curriculum well underway in the UK, and similar initiatives existing in other countries the world over to encourage children to grow their digital skills through formal education, the ‘online knowledge gap’ between parents and children is only likely to grow. So what can parents do to keep on top of their child’s digital footprint in today’s fast paced digital world?

Approach the internet as an extension of your child’s real world. You would watch your child play a football game and would ask how an afternoon in the park went, so make sure you are engaging similarly with your child’s online activity from a young age. Ask what they are doing online, who they are speaking with and what social media sites they are using.

Visit The Hub - www.childinternetsafety.co.uk

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Bullying is nothing new, but now the bullies have a global platform: the internet. But the good news is: so do their victims. Chris Middleton reports.

Bullying has probably been around for as long as human beings have. But whereas in previous centuries bullying typically happened in a specific place at a specific time – a playground, a school, a workplace – it now has a new and more complex dimension: cyberbullying.

Cyberbullying extends bullying online to mobile devices, via abusive messages, images, videos, or social media profiles. It can have disastrous consequences for any vulnerable or sensitive young person: damage to their self-esteem that can last into adulthood, and in some cases trigger self-harm or even attempted suicide.

In 2012, more than 1,700 cases were heard in English and Welsh courts involving abusive messages sent online or by text. In 2013, the NSPCC said that 4,500 children contacted ChildLine about cyber-bullying. Of 12- to 15 year-olds, 8 per cent had been bullied online in the past year (another study says 12 per cent), and close to half know a victim of cyberbullying, or of gossip or embarrassing images being shared. According to the NSPCC, online bullying is a normal part of everyday life.

The extent of the problem was underlined at last year’s Child Internet Safety conference in London, when Zoe Brownlow, then head of dedicated charity BeatBullying*, said that 80 per cent of all the bullying cases that her organisation dealt with included a cyber element. In 2014, before it went into liquidation, BeatBullying produced a great deal of useful research. In its time, BeatBullying produced a great deal of useful research. In 2014, before it went into liquidation, BeatBullying revealed that 20 per cent of children and young people said they were reluctant to go to school because of fear of cyber-bullying; 28 per cent cited experiences of cyber-bullying on Twitter; while five per cent reported self-harm and three per cent said they had attempted suicide as a direct result of cyber-bullies.

Make no mistake, cyberbullying can blight young lives. A 2014 study by the London School of Economics’ (LSE) EU Kids Online project underlined the fact that cyber-bullying is a growing problem across Europe. The project surveyed children’s attitudes in 33 countries. Compared with a similar study in 2010, it found that children are now more likely to be exposed to hate messages (20 per cent, compared with 13 per cent in 2010), and more likely to encounter cyber-bullying (12 per cent, compared with seven per cent in 2010).

According to the LSE’s research, children today are also more likely to see self-harm and pro-anorexia sites, with the trend rising in both cases. More, the report finds increasing numbers of children saying that they are upset or disturbed by online content, particularly hate messages or images of real violence.

“Once you read it, it can be deleted from a computer but not from your head,” said one 15-year-old interviewee.

The implication of all this research is clear: rising numbers of young people directly experience cyber-bullying and many more are worried about it, to such an extent that it’s affecting their behaviour in the real world, and damaging their future opportunities as a result.

Part of the problem is to do with a single facet of online culture. Anyone who has looked at a news story or video online and then scanned down the comments threads is aware that ‘trolls’ are everywhere. For a troll, anyone in the public eye is deemed fair game for an assault on their appearance, skills, work, values, or relationships – often expressed in the most vitriolic and personal terms under a cloak of anonymity.

But in today’s always-on social media culture, anyone who storms into a conversation online is accused of bullying. Cyberbullies can use their anonymity to ridicule a person and even to share the evidence of attacks on them in the real world. That’s the power of cyber-bullying and it can be a nightmare for vulnerable young people, especially when both bully and target have smartphones and tablets.

But there’s an upside: as some abusive Twitter trolls have discovered to their cost, the online world also presents unprecedented opportunities to document abuse – something that was more difficult for previous generations, when victims often kept quiet about their experiences or were unable to prove that attacks ever took place. Today, an online bully can reveal themselves with very little help from their target.

Indeed, Facebook, Twitter, and other social platforms are excellent tools for raising awareness of bullying and throwing a spotlight on abusive behaviour. They’ve also proved invaluable for promoting anti-bullying organisations, positive role models, and best practice: BeatBullying*, the Bully Project, Bullying UK, and many more are well worth investigating. Related organisations such as Harmless, the National Self Harm Network Forum, and Young Minds also do excellent work, as does the It Gets Better campaign for bullied LGBT youth.

There’s no legal definition of bullying within the UK, which is one reason why tackling it can be so difficult, but the use of threats, abuse, intimidation and/or violence to inflict emotional or physical damage on a person is a good definition as any. Hate incidents of many types are regarded as crimes, and harassment via phone is an offence under telecommunications law. But of course, the issue is more complex and sensitive when dealing with minors: criminalising children is unlikely to be the solution.

Attempting to define a typical target of cyber-bullying can be equally difficult, because defining someone’s ‘difference’...
Empowering Parents, Protecting Children.

**CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS should...**

- Walk tall at all times – even if this seems like the most difficult thing in the world.
- Remember that bullies have a problem, not feel alone. Always seek help from someone who harbours self doubts or is sensitive about their appearance – as many teenagers are as they embark on the difficult journey to adulthood. Social media encourages memes painted in popular behaviour that spread like viruses. New memes appear frequently, and crazes such as teenagers sharing ‘hot or not?’ images among friends are fun for some, but can cause lasting damage to anyone described as ‘hot’ by their peers. Such behavior has always existed in schools and colleges – and in the past some institutions have even encouraged it with their ‘Most Likely To...’, accoutrements and yearbooks – but social media extends the platform to a much bigger audience, potentially even a global one. This is one instance where parents can ask their children to think about what they post and share. Questions such as: What might the damage be to someone described as ugly or unattractive online? What if those comments were to be viewed and shared hundreds of times? How would your own child feel if they were to be described that way by a friend or a stranger, and for others – perhaps elsewhere in the world – to agree with that view?

- Not feel alone. Always seek help from someone who harbours self doubts or is sensitive about their appearance – as many teenagers are as they embark on the difficult journey to adulthood. Social media encourages memes painted in popular behaviour that spread like viruses. New memes appear frequently, and crazes such as teenagers sharing ‘hot or not?’ images among friends are fun for some, but can cause lasting damage to anyone described as ‘hot’ by their peers. Such behavior has always existed in schools and colleges – and in the past some institutions have even encouraged it with their ‘Most Likely To...’, accoutrements and yearbooks – but social media extends the platform to a much bigger audience, potentially even a global one. This is one instance where parents can ask their children to think about what they post and share. Questions such as: What might the damage be to someone described as ugly or unattractive online? What if those comments were to be viewed and shared hundreds of times? How would your own child feel if they were to be described that way by a friend or a stranger, and for others – perhaps elsewhere in the world – to agree with that view?

- Take copies of any content that targets them without their consent: good practice and resilience to potential harm.
- Communicate regularly with children and teenagers about what they find problematic online.
- Create a culture of trust and openness rather than use social media to ‘spy’ on their kids. (One reason that many young people have stopped using Facebook is that they perceive it as being their parents’ platform.)
- Keep the school involved if cyber-bullying is discovered and keep an audit log of all improper content.
- Listen.
- Form partnerships with trusted providers.
- Listen.
- Listen.

**OTHER FINDINGS...**

- The more children use the internet, the more digital skills they gain, and the higher they climb up the ‘ladder of online opportunities’ to gain the benefits.
- Non-intervention risks result in benefits: the chance of a child gaining the benefits depends on their age, gender and socio-economic status, on how their parents support them, and on the positive content available to them.
- Not all online risks result in harm: the chance of a child being harmed by online experiences depends partly on their age, gender and socio-economic status, and also on their resilience and resources to cope with what happens on the internet.

**PARENTS should...**

- Focus on enhancing children’s opportunities, self-worth, coping skills and resilience to potential harm.
- Think less about risk and instead focus on engaging activities and positive content.
- Communicate regularly with children and teenagers about what they find problematic online.
- Create a culture of trust and openness rather than use social media to ‘spy’ on their kids. (One reason that many young people have stopped using Facebook is that they perceive it as being their parents’ platform.)
- Keep the school involved if cyber-bullying is discovered and keep an audit log of all improper content.
- Listen.
- Form partnerships with trusted providers.
- Listen.

**Wise WORDS...**

*NEVER FEEL INTIMIDATED BY BULLIES. NEVER FEEL A VICTIM. NEVER EXCHANGE INFORMATION YOU WOULDN’T OTHERWISE SHARE WITH SOMEONE IN PERSON OR A STRANGER. I TELL CHILDREN TO LEARN TO LOVE AND RESPECT THEMSELVES; TO HAVE HIGH SELF-ESTEEM; TO FEEL WORTHY, EVEN THOUGH THEY MAY BE SUFFERING ABUSE, AND NEVER TO FEEL THAT IT IS THEIR FAULT. I TELL THEM THAT THEY MUST LIVE THEIR LIVES WITH INTEGRITY AND HONESTY, AND ABOVE ALL HAVE THE COURAGE TO STAND UP AGAINST THOSE WHO WANT TO HARM THEM OR TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEM.*

Baroness Benjamin, Speaking in the House of Lords.

**TEACHERS should...**

- Promote positive, safe and effective use of technology.
- Integrate online safety and digital skills across the curriculum.
- Ensure that the benefits of digital technologies reach all children.
- Ensure the development of ICT skills among all teachers.
- Develop whole-school policies regarding the positive use of technology.
- Develop new protocols and policies to deal with cyber-bullying and online harassment.
- Listen.

Source: LSE.
The Child Internet Safety cause has a new supporter in the form of rapidly growing online parenting network Mums in the Know (MITK).

Alex Uprichard and Dawn Hayes launched Mums In The Know when they spotted an opening for an interactive, social media-heavy and hyperlocal online resource for parents.

Mums in the Know is now a fast-growing community of websites featuring not only ‘what’s on’ information for families, but also an essential guide to bringing up children in local areas. Social media interaction is key to its burgeoning appeal, with followers receiving tweets and Facebook messages throughout the day suggesting everything from toddler groups to attend that morning, to live events and outdoor attractions for the weekend.

The network is now reaching over 200,000 parents on a monthly basis, and is well on track to hitting their target of 1,000,000 readers soon.

Alex Uprichard comments: “The Mums in the Know local sites are mobile integrated and we use social media to give Mums daily inspiration on what to do with their kids. We know that our readers are online a lot during the day and a large percentage of our audience make use of tablets and apps to entertain and educate their children. Being Mums, child internet safety is a matter close to our hearts, and its also a topic which parents need to be as informed as possible about.”

“We hope by partnering with the Child Internet Safety organisation we can equip more parents with the ability to allow their children to use and enjoy the internet whilst keeping them completely safe. Its something every family home in the UK will benefit from,” continues Dawn Hayes.
Be Prepared

SCOUTS IS ONE OF THE OLDEST AND MOST RESPECTED ORGANISATIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE WORLD. IN THE DIGITAL WORLD, BEING A SCOUT – AND DOING VOLUNTARY WORK WITH, OR FOR, THE SCOUTS – HAS A NEW DIMENSION. SAMANTHA MARKS REPORTS

Whether you’re climbing a mountain or using Twitter, staying safe is always at the top of the agenda if you work with children and young people. In Scouts we believe that young people should both stay safe and have fun, and learning to use social media to enhance what we already do is important.

Internet safety remains big news, as stories appear every day about how young people and adults are being exploited or harmed online. But social media can have a positive influence and effect on youth work too. So, how do you balance delivering your message while safeguarding young people and, importantly, yourself?

Here are some useful general guidelines for anyone who is considering the use of social media in their work with vulnerable young people, some of whom may have special needs or have had bad or upsetting experiences.

This is a conversation that we have with many of our volunteers, and here’s how the conversation usually goes.

What tools to use?

THE FIRST THING WE ASK VOLUNTEERS IS: “WHAT DO YOU WANT THE TECHNOLOGY FOR?”

There needs to be a purpose and an aim for using social media, which helps to define which sites are best to use.

Often volunteers think they ‘should’ be using Facebook or a similar platform, because ‘that’s what people do’. But they don’t always consider whether or not it’s the best tool for the job. So, first do a bit of research to make sure that the social platform you’re using is suitable and that you fully understand its terms and conditions. You might also want to consider whether your volunteers and young people can actually use it! Some places of work still have firm policies on the use of sites like Facebook – they block them or forbid their usage in work hours – and many social media sites also have age restrictions. You should make sure that whatever tool you use is acceptable for your organisation’s values and its policies about access and usability. Consider that some vulnerable or at-risk young people may not be able to use social media sites, or they may not want to because they have been bullied on them previously.

Always make sure you have a conversation with young people and parents about what they feel comfortable in using and doing.

Once you have decided on what sites to use, make sure you find people who know how to use those sites properly and professionally. You may well have to do some training and development with volunteers, young people and parents, so having ‘champions’ who are comfortable with the chosen platform helps.

Conduct and communication

THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF USING SOCIAL MEDIA RELATES TO CONSENT AND BEHAVIOUR...

... and this is where things often go wrong. Whatever tools you choose, you should make sure that there are acceptable use policies and codes of conduct in place for anyone using them.

In Scouting, we ask young people to understand what their behaviour might look like, whether it relates to consent, personal data, image use, and more. This means having clear guidelines in place, and making sure that information is shared with parents. For example, it’s common courtesy to ask permission before you post a picture of them. Consent is really important when using online spaces, and you can’t assume that young people understand how social media works, so it’s really important to make sure you and your volunteers have up-to-date guidelines in place. And don’t forget to respond when people don’t behave in an appropriate way. Codes of conduct demand action.
The summer of 2014, saw the introduction of the Friendly WiFi Scheme which is the world’s first accreditation scheme for public WiFi. The scheme is designed to verify that a business’ public WiFi service meets a minimum level of filtering to block access to pornographic and child sex abuse images and websites. The aim is to keep children and young people safe from viewing inappropriate material when surfing the web whilst using public WiFi services. As we all know, WiFi is now seen pretty much everywhere from cafes, shops, hotels and even in schools and hospitals across the UK. Online safety is a hot topic and the concern of many parents and schools as children become more tech savvy and surfing the internet and social media is now a way of everyday life.

Government and industry are focused on this subject too with many leading organisations in the field showing great proactivity in this area and also providing great information and tools for parents, children and young people.

Government and the Prime Minister are also committed to this subject and the Friendly WiFi scheme originated from some of the great work done by the Department for Education and the Prime Minister.

During his 2013 NSPCC speech on online safety, David Cameron announced that an agreement was in place with the UK’s main WiFi providers (BT, The Cloud, Virgin Media, Arqiva, O2, EE and Nomad) to commit to applying a minimum level of filtering across all of their standard public WiFi services. Both in store, in coffee shops and in its other brands such as Giraffe Restaurants, customers now see the Friendly WiFi logo when they log in to use its free public WiFi service. A manager at Tesco said: “As the UK’s leading retailer it’s important we do everything we can to make sure children are properly safeguarded in our stores. ‘Friendly WiFi’ means parents can be safe in the knowledge that we are doing all we can to make sure children are properly safeguarded in our stores.”

The scheme is now seeing an increasing demand from schools and councils who now offer WiFi access to children, young people and in the cities anyone who is there visiting or shopping. This just demonstrates the ever increasing use of public WiFi and the sheer scale of these services. RDI Director Mike Davies said: “The internet is a massively positive tool and a great service to provide customers when they’re out and about. The ‘Friendly WiFi’ logo will equip anyone who wants to use public WiFi with the knowledge that they are protected from some of the horrendous imagery found on the internet. For teachers the colourful ‘Friendly WiFi’ logo is simple and straightforward educational tool that allows them to demonstrate to children and young people the best way to stay safe when connected. The ‘Friendly WiFi’ team are working in partnership with educational bodies in the UK to develop literature to be used in schools and colleges.

John Carr, a leading individual who is the secretary of the UK’s Children’s Charities’ Coalition on Internet Safety and works tirelessly across Europe and the World commented: “The commitment made by the UK’s main WiFi providers is a huge step forward with regards to online safety as it’s the first time providers of internet access in public spaces have acknowledged their responsibility to all internet users and for that they deserve hearty congratulations.”

Government Supported

Launching the Friendly WiFi Scheme, communications minister Ed Vaizey, said: “The ‘Friendly WiFi’ logo will make clear to parents which cafes, restaurants and other businesses have internet access that is safe for their children to use. It will help these firms ensure that families feel comfortable and make it clear to parents they are choosing a safe online environment.” He added: “This shows that businesses are responding to government’s call to think about how they can help parents protect their children from inappropriate content online.”

The NSPCC have also given their support to the scheme, its head of Child Online Safety, Claire Lilley, said: “Children often go online when they are out and about and parents need to know that using a public WiFi network won’t expose them to pornography. So it’s very reassuring for parents to know that when they see the ‘Friendly WiFi’ logo they can allow their children to go online in safety. However, as with any filtering measures, it’s vital not to be complacent and we urge parents to talk to their children about what they get up to online and what to do if they have any concerns.

A scheme stakeholder and supporter from the beginning has been the Tesco group of companies, who were also involved in the scheme development and have been one of the first retailers to rollout the scheme across all of its stores nationally which offer public WiFi services. Both in store, in coffee shops and in its other brands such as Giraffe Restaurants, customers now see the Friendly WiFi logo when they log in to use its free public WiFi service. A manager at Tesco said: “As the UK’s leading retailer it’s important we do everything we can to make sure children are properly safeguarded in our stores. ‘Friendly WiFi’ means parents can be safe in the knowledge that we are doing all we can to make sure unsuitable content is not accessible through Tesco wireless networks. This will be made clear to customers by the display of the ‘Friendly WiFi’ logo in our stores.”

Starbucks and Samsung and a growing list of shopping centres, schools, hotels and independent outlets are other national participants.

The scheme is now seeing an increasing demand from schools and councils who now offer WiFi access to children, young people and in the cities anyone who is there visiting or shopping. This just demonstrates the ever increasing use of public WiFi and the sheer scale of these services. RDI Director Mike Davies said: “The internet is a massively positive tool and a great service to provide customers when they’re out and about. The ‘Friendly WiFi’ logo will equip anyone who wants to use public WiFi with the knowledge that they are protected from some of the horrendous imagery found on the internet. For teachers the colourful ‘Friendly WiFi’ logo is simple and straightforward educational tool that allows them to demonstrate to children and young people the best way to stay safe when connected. The ‘Friendly WiFi’ team are working in partnership with educational bodies in the UK to develop literature to be used in schools and colleges.

It is really an exciting scheme and will certainly create a journey as it develops and independently businesses get on board to shout to their customers that they are looking after the safety and protection of their children.”

More information about the scheme or to join the scheme can be found at www.friendlywifi.co.uk

Friendly WiFi

World’s first accreditation scheme for public WiFi
DON’T PUT YOUR FOOT IN IT!

Chris Middleton explains how our digital footprints define who we are. For young people, the decisions they make today may cause problems for them in future...

When Man first walked on the moon in 1969, he planted a flag and left his footprint there for future generations to discover. Nearly 50 years later, those footprints and that flag are still there, 240,000 miles away in outer space. In the 21st century, we’re discovering another new world: the digital one, in cyberspace. In fact, we’re building it every day via our interactions on social media, mobile devices, websites, blogs, and apps.

And just like the footprint that Neil Armstrong left on the moon, we’re leaving our digital footprints all over that new world. But instead of planting a flag in the name of all Mankind, as the astronauts did, we plant a flag saying “This is me. This is who I am.” We have our thoughts and actions – a picture that, one day, someone may wish they’d kept private.

Choosing to play an online game or to download an app via a social platform may expose all of their details to a wider community of users, not to mention the marketers of the app.

It used to be said that the choices you make early in life come back to haunt you. Parents say it all the time, but only because they know that it’s true. In today’s digital world, that’s the case many, many times over. Employers, banks, schools, colleges, government agencies: all may be at some point decide to access social media profiles and feeds. Some may make it a matter of policy – rightfully or wrongly – but others may do it covertly in order to assess who they’re really dealing with.

Unless organisational policies or regulations actively forbid them from doing so, a young person’s future employer could reasonably look at any profile that’s not been set to ‘private’, because – effectively – it has voluntarily been placed in the public domain. Not only that, but they might look at the sort of people that a young person talks to and hangs around with, at the groups they belong to, at the causes they support, perhaps even at their emotional states, or at any evidence of antisocial behaviour.

On some social platforms, they can trace a young person’s life back to the day they joined. And in some cases, they may choose to compare what an applicant says on their CV with what their social profile says. Any inconsistencies will be picked up straight away.

So if a bright, talented, ambitious young person has portrayed themselves as an out-of-control party animal to their friends – or shared content that an employer might regard as inappropriate – then that organisation may decide to ignore the young person’s skills and their beautifully produced CV, and base their decision on a social media feed instead. The same applies to content that an employer might regard as politically sensitive.

To a search engine – and therefore to any complete stranger – a digital footprint, the traces that everyone leaves behind them, is that person. And as we move deeper into a digital future, more often than not the preservation of someone’s life, their work and their most embarrassing moments will be in other people’s hands when they tag a photo or video of that person, share a status update, or Tweet about something their friend has done.

There’s a generational aspect to this. Children, teenagers and young adults seem happy to share everything online, whether it’s their work and their most embarrassing moments, or online, whether it’s their work and their most embarrassing moments, or it’s something they wouldn’t want a stranger to see!

Do they know? If they are in contact with your friends, ask your friends about them first.

Manage privacy settings carefully to ensure that individual pieces of content are not shared outside of your private network if you don’t want them to be.

Consider whether private social media profiles should be shared publicly.

Consider creating private and public profiles.

Consider whether private social media profiles should be shared publicly.

Consider whether private social media profiles should be shared publicly.

And then there are other people: hopefully your friends and family.

Sometimes even friends can let you down.

Don’t put your foot in it!
The Right to be Forgotten

Should search engines remember everything about you?

Chris Middleton reports on a controversial issue...

Today’s cut-and-paste culture means that any information on the Web may be republished on hundreds of webpages, and search algorithms may give extra weight to it because of the links it spawns. Present a single story, a single event, a single piece of information about a person, perhaps, and it can spread over their entire online life. In many cases, that may be unfair. But in some cases – violent criminals and abusers, for example – we might be thankful that this can happen. Yet for other people, these issues may pose a problem that merits serious consideration: vital facts might be missing or highly misleading, or information might be long out of date or simply wrong. And in a world in which our data is ‘regarded as us’ by banks, building societies, employers, credit providers, and more, what then?

As we touched on in our profile of Sir Tim Berners-Lee [see page 18], the European Union’s ‘Right to be Forgotten’ is a proposal to help people erase aspects of their digital footprints online if they wish to. However, the proposals have proved highly controversial and perhaps unworkable.

Before legislation could be enacted, media attention focused on a separate European ruling demanding that search engines remove results linking to stories about those people were pushed back in front of newspapers’ readers. Fair enough. But it’s a more complex area than has been reported in most places, not least because Google’s search facility is not the same thing as the internet itself, even if it might be many people’s preferred route into the virtual world. More, the search algorithms that Google uses give weight to some factors more than others, which means that some information about people may be much more prominent than others – perhaps unfairly, but perhaps not.

These are major issues, and in a world of so-called ‘big data’ – data gathered from thousands of sources and crunched by computers to find patterns of human behaviour – they can only get more and more important to find the right answers to.

On the one hand, freedom of speech, a free press, journalistic enquiry and fair comment are all cherished principles of an open, democratic society – and open data, information-sharing and the need for a neutral platform are the founding principles of the Web too, as our interview with Sir Tim explored. Those principles must be defended.

On the other hand, a right to insist that private data is, for example, permanently erased from the servers of e-commerce sites, social networks or ‘cloud’ services would be useful in specific instances. For example, sites such as eBay, LinkedIn and software maker Adobe have all been hacked and account details stolen from them in recent years, as have several US banks. Privately stored content has also been stolen from a broad range of cloud services, including Snapchat, Dropbox and Apple’s iCloud.

In light of that, having the option to insist that a company removes all trace of credit card details, addresses and shopping habits from its databases does not seem unreasonable. Nor does it seem unreasonable to try to prevent, as Sir Tim Berners-Lee suggested, the commercial exploitation of private information without people’s active opt-in.

But that is ‘a right to have data erased from commercial sites for personal data security, which is not the same as the Google ruling that caused a media outcry. Either way, a world in which all information about everyone is available to everyone of the time – including criminal convictions that the law regards as spent – is something entirely new.

“I am taking legal advice about it. It was extremely helpful that the European Court found that Google was subject to European law because they have a centre in Spain and Spanish customers. So their whole extra-territoriality argument about ‘we’re not subject to European law’ – that aspect of the judgement is extremely helpful [to the UK].”

“The Right to be Forgotten should start with the right to understand what’s being collected. Because there is a lot of data being held about us, and held about children, and we have no concept of what is out there. When kids load apps onto phones, do they read the privacy policy? Do we read it as parents? And that device is personal, it can link to the person. But I can say that I want to remove my content, but I can’t tell someone to remove what they have written about me. And that’s the problem. He owns his ‘content’, and I own mine. But the industry needs to come round to the fact that you should have the ‘right to be removed’.”

Visit: www.childinternetsafety.co.uk/directory

The CIS Directory
Proven to protect!

The CIS Directory is for parents, practitioners and carers of children who want to make an informed choice about the connected devices or protection software they are considering to keep children safe online.

The directory only lists products that are proven to protect families from online dangers, ranging from anti-virus software to wearable technology. The directory also highlights information about Local Children’s Safeguarding Boards, details of e-safety training, courses and resources as well as a list of WiFi outlets and providers you can use to access safe Public WiFi.

To feature your product, service or device in the CIS Directory, email: directory@childinternetsafety.co.uk

Visit: The Hub - www.childinternetsafety.co.uk

Ask the EXPERTS

Helen Goodman, MP (Lab)

“The Right to be Forgotten has been a very interesting debate, but it has almost entirely been focused on adults and their right to be forgotten and there are lots of reasons for and against...”

“...But I can say that I want to remove my content, but I can’t tell someone to remove what they have written about me. And that’s the problem.”

Sonia Livingstone
LSE

“The Right to be Forgotten has been a very interesting debate, but it has almost entirely been focused on adults and their right to be forgotten and there are lots of reasons for and against...”

“I am taking legal advice about it. It was extremely helpful that the European Court found that Google was subject to European law because they have a centre in Spain and Spanish customers. So their whole extra-territoriality argument about ‘we’re not subject to European law’ – that aspect of the judgement is extremely helpful [to the UK].”

Tony Anscome
AVG (IT vendor)

“I am taking legal advice about it. It was extremely helpful that the European Court found that Google was subject to European law because they have a centre in Spain and Spanish customers. So their whole extra-territoriality argument about ‘we’re not subject to European law’ – that aspect of the judgement is extremely helpful [to the UK].”
A UNITED NATIONS OF CHILDREN

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is 25 years old. Have we forgotten it, and its meaning? Chris Middleton investigates...

The World Wide Web is not the only thing celebrating its quarter century: the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child also turned 25 at the end of 2014. So in our world crammed full of noisy mobile devices, apps, and social platforms, let’s take time out to remind ourselves of its content.

The Convention is a legally binding international agreement, at the core of which is the declaration that “the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration... in all actions concerning children.”

Baroness Kidron is one of the founders of iRights, a coalition of civil organisations and young people who are working together to create a framework for promoting and implementing children’s rights online. In November, Kidron marked the quarter century of the Convention by opening a special debate in the House of Lords.

“While the experience of childhood has been revolutionised by technology, the necessity for children to be the guardians of their own interests and our need to be responsible guardians of them remains exactly the same as it was 25 years ago,” she told the House. “These technologies bring with them unparalleled opportunity, breathtaking imagination and the tantalising promise of a better world. The digital world is one of infinite possibility, but it was not designed with children in mind.”

Baroness Kidron explained: “It is estimated that 98 per cent of nine- to 16-year-olds in the UK are online, while recent Ofcom research indicates that the vast majority are accessing the internet through portable devices such as smartphones and tablets... But this is not a neutral arrangement. As children shop, play, learn, research and upload, they are giving up their personal information. “Research shows that young people do not fully appreciate how the indelible nature of data contributes to their reputation and the reputations of others. A personal identity is very low on context. ”

Kidron said: “The ideal of privacy allows individuals to define themselves, to reveal – or conceal; it is not to hide only that which is wrongdoing, but also perhaps something that is special, precious or simply personal.”

Kidron continued in her speech. “We know that on occasion our dignity is challenged by the misunderstanding of others or by our actions being judged out of context. A digital identity is very low on context.”

Kidron took pains to focus on the upside of the digital world. “The mental health charity YoungMinds states clearly that everyone who is concerned about the emotional well-being of young people needs to acknowledge that thousands of them get emotional support from online communities, thereby upholding the principle enshrined in Article 24, which encompasses a child’s right to appropriate physical and mental health information advice and support.”

She concluded: “This debate is not about whether web and digital technology are good or bad. They are here. It is about how we best deliver children’s rights, inform them of their responsibility and build their resilience when using technology that is fast becoming the organising technology of our society.”

Lord Framlingham (Conservative) was one of several Lords to focus on the negative impacts of internet technologies. “In 2013, 37 per cent of five- to seven-year-olds used the internet for the first time before they were fully formed.”

The ideal of privacy allows individuals to define themselves, to reveal – or conceal,” Baroness Kidron
Empowering Parents, Protecting Children. Issue 1 | January 2015

internet every day,” he said. “In just one month, December 2013, 44,000 children aged six to 11 visited an adult website. I could go on. Quite frankly, I find the statistics relating to this debate on the Convention utterly horrifying.

“As a matter of the greatest urgency, a way must be found to control, edit and supervise what at least our very youngest children can access... Surely those who invented the so-called ‘social media’ can help us to tame the creature they have created?”

Baroness Benjamin (LibDem) is Chair of the All-Party Group for Children’s Media and the Arts. She responded: “Public opinion and policymakers seem to lurch from knee-jerk reaction to knee-jerk reaction,” she said. “Yes, the internet is full of predators, full of bullies, full of silly games, and children must be protected from all this. But the internet is also full of important and valuable things such as information, knowledge, news, fun and friendship. We need to find a way to teach our children and young people how to navigate their way safely, how to be discerning, and how to evaluate and judge what they see, hear and do.”

The data-gathering practices of technology companies, including Google, Facebook, Bebo and AOL, “Surely those who invented the so-called ‘social media’ can help us to tame the beast they have created?” Lord Framlingham (Con)

“Surely those who invented the so-called ‘social media’ can help us to tame the beast they have created?”

Lord Framlingham (Con)
The Internet: Enjoy, Embrace & Educate

Debate, admitting: “I do not use social media platforms such as Instagram or Snapchat. I do not have a Facebook presence. I say this with no pride; I realise that it is a form of generational isolation.

“Anyone who spends any time with children or teenagers today knows how important social media are to their lives. They are how they communicate with each other. They seem to be the filter through which they experience almost everything. “Given that so much of young people’s lives is now spent in an online environment, teaching them to stay safe and to both value and protect their privacy and dignity is of vital importance. Similarly, Article 19 talks about the promise of adults to ensure children’s protection from abuse in all its forms.”

For Warwick, the primary concern is cyber-bullying [see our article this issue]. “While legislation is part of the solution, it is clear that educating children about online safety is key to tackling cyber-bullying,” she said, “so I welcome the extension of e-safety teaching to primary school pupils aged between five and 10 from September [2014].

“Web sites such as Thinkuknow, the advice offered by Childnet, and the hotline provided by the Safer Internet Centre along with its initiatives such as Safer Internet Day, are all making a difference.”

Another peer from within the technology sector is Baroness Lane-Fox of Soho, co-founder of one of the definitive Nineties sites, Lastminute.com. “In some ways I feel ill-equipped to speak,” she said. “I have no children of my own and have spent my entire working life in the company of grown-ups. [But] I will make three points. The first is about digital exclusion.

“There are still 10 million adults in the UK who are unable to communicate, transact, stay safe, or search using the Web, meaning that information, jobs and significant savings – let alone entertainment and all the things we take for granted – are unavailable to them. More than four million of that 10 million are parents and I cannot imagine how intimidating and difficult it must be to navigate your child’s online life if you have no understanding of your own.

“Second... it is a fantastic ambition to have mandated that every child of primary school age should learn to code. In an age when the internet underpins all aspects of our daily lives – like water – giving children the confidence to look under the bonnet and start to create and build is essential... Education is being blown apart by technology. Children are as likely to use YouTube as a textbook.

“Finally, as we, the older generation, grapple with the rapidly changing nature of our world, it is easy to forget that there is much online to amaze, inspire, help and sometimes even save children’s lives. “I agree with the Harvard professor Danah Boyd, who argues that we fail young people when paternalism and protectionism hinder teenagers’ ability to become informed, thoughtful, and engaged citizens. This debate is vital in this Chamber and in the wider world. But it must be rooted in facts, not fiction, and, crucially, at the heart of the debate we must not forget to listen to young people themselves.”

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