

## INTERNET SAFETY & CHILDREN



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## INTERNET ACCESS

\*57 million Americans have Internet access (MSNBC, 2000)

\*77 million children expected to be online by 2005  
(eMarketer)

\*95% of parents surveyed have Internet access at home

(FamilyPC Survey, 2000)

## INTERNET DANGERS

(A tool used for good or evil)

1. Free and easy access to inappropriate and illegal content in homes, schools, libraries, businesses and churches:

- Pornography (child porn, obscenity, harmful to minors)
- Violence
- Bomb-making
- Hate speech

2. Predators have easy and anonymous access to unsuspecting kids

## THE CYBERSEX INDUSTRY

- Online pornography is the first consistently successful e-commerce product (C-net, 4/28/99)
- Forbes Magazine reports Internet porn at \$1.5 billion (Forbes, 6/14/99)
- Commercial porn sites post free “teaser” images to entice the viewer

## UNINTENTIONAL ACCESS

- Misspelled Words- (shareware vs. sharware)
- Innocent Searches- (toys, boys, pets, etc)
- Stealth Sites- (whitehouse.com; coffeebeansupply.com; teenagershideout.com; <http://clothingcatalog.com>; watersports.com)
- Brand Name Misuse (Disney, Nintendo, Barbie, Levis, etc)
- Unsolicited E-mail- 30% of all spam is from pornographers
- Chat Rooms & Instant Messages

## YAHOO! and CHILD PORN

- Yahoo's Clubs, Members Directories and Geocities sites host child porn and encourage child sex abusers
- Yahoo! Family Incest Club
- Yahoo! Rape Club
- Yahoo! Incest Directory
- Yahoo! Child Pornography Crimes Directory

## CYBER-SEX COMPULSIONS

- MSNBC/Stanford/Duquesne Study, 2000
  - 60% of all web-site visits are sexual in nature
  - Sex is the # 1 searched word online
  - 25 million Americans visit cyber-sex sites between 1-10 hours per week. Another 4.7 million in excess of 11 hours per week. MSNBC/Stanford/Duquesne Study, Washington Times 1/26/ 00)

## Men & Women Keep Cyber-Sex Habit Secret- 70%

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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>WOMEN</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Favor chat rooms 2X more than men</li> <li>• Slightly lower rate of sexually compulsive Internet behavior</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>MEN</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Favor visual erotica 2X more than women</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
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## STUDENTS & CYBERSEX

- Students were most at risk for cybersex compulsions
- Due to a combination of increased access to computers, more private leisure time, & developmental stage characterized by increased sexual awareness & experimentation.
- (All stats from MSNBC/Stanford/Duquesne Study, 2000)

## Stages of Sex Addiction

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- Objectification
- Desensitization
- Addiction (drug of choice; skinner box effect)
- Acting out (public safety issue)

## Levels of Sex Addiction

- 1-Fantasy, Pornography, Masturbation
- 2-Live Porn, Fetishes, Affairs
- 3-Minor Criminal Offenses, Prostitution, Voyeurism, Exhibitionism
- 4-Severe Legal Consequences, Molestation, Incest, Rape
  - (“When Sex Becomes An Addiction”, Stephen Arterburn)

## PREDATORS ONLINE

- Pedophiles’ & Predators’ Anonymous Access to Children
- Easy Access to Child Pornography
- Virtual Validation
- Virtual Molestation
- Trade Secrets & Teaching Tools
- Avoidance of Law Enforcement Detection

## Child Pornography

- 345% increase in child pornography sites between 2/2001 - 7/2001 (N2H2 press release, 8/01)
- New child porn sites at rate of 8/day (N2H2 press release, 8/01)
- There are in excess of 40,000 individual URLs containing child pornography, pedophilia and pro-pedophilia content. (Safeguarding Our Children- United Mothers & CyberAngels "Our Kids In Danger List", 2000.)

## Online Victimization: A Report on the Nation's Youth

- 1 in 5 received sexual solicitation or approach in last year
- 1 in 33 received AGGRESSIVE sexual solicitation -(Asked to meet, called them via phone, sent mail, money or gifts)
- 25% of youth who received sexual solicitation told a parent
- Less than 10% of sexual solicitation and 3% unwanted porn exposure reported the incident to authorities
- (Sample of 1,501 youth ages 1-17 who use Internet regularly)

## Who are the perpetrators?

- Juveniles-
  - 48% of overall solicitations
  - 48% of aggressive solicitations
- Adult solicitors-
  - Most of the “adult” solicitors were ages 18-25
  - 24% of solicitations
  - 34% of aggressive solicitations

## TOOL OF TODAY'S PEDOPHILE

- 1 in 4 kids participate in Real Time Chat  
(FamilyPC Survey, 2000)
- 13 million youth use Instant Messaging (Pew Study reported in JAMA, 6/01)
- 89 % of sexual solicitations were made in either Chat rooms or Instant Messages (Pew Study reported in JAMA, 2001)

## Child Sexual Exploitation

- 325,000 U.S. kids (17 & younger) are prostitutes, perform in porn videos or other commercial sexual exploitation (University of Pennsylvania study, 9/01)
- 2 in 5 abductions ages 15-17- Due to Internet
- Online sexual solicitation growing at rate of 1000% per month (San Diego Police Department)

## MISSING CHILDREN

- Children are reported missing & entered into the FBI's computer system at rate of:
  - 825,6000 kids per year
  - 68,800 kids per month
  - 16,100 kids per week
  - 2,300 kids per day
  - 96 kids per hour
  - OR 3 kids every 2 minutes

## **PORNOGRAPHY- Tool used by Pedophiles**

- to arouse the child,
- to lower the child's inhibitions,
- to demonstrate to their victims what they want them to do,
- to communicate that a particular sexual activity is okay.

## **PREVENTION: THREE- PRONG SOLUTION**

- A shared responsibility between the
  - Public- Parents, Schools, Libraries, Businesses, Churches
  - Technology Industry
  - Legal Community- Law Enforcement & Public Policy
- Each provides an essential layer of protection

## PUBLIC PRONG

### ROLE OF PARENTS, TEACHERS, & LIBRARIANS

- Awareness, education and empowerment
- Safety Rules and Software tools- Both are essential, one without the other is ineffective
- Schools and libraries must take appropriate measures to protect kids online. Acceptable use policies must be combined with filtering software. (CIPA passed 12/00)

## HOME

- Parents are first line of defense, but can't do it alone
- 1 in 2 parents don't use protective software (FamilyPC, 2000)
- 58% prefer parental guidance instead of protective software (SafeKids/NetFamilyNews, 2001)

## PUBLIC LIBRARIES

- Public Libraries had 82 million Internet sessions- annual porn incident rate of between 400,000 and 2 million (Dangerous Access, 2000)
- The pedophile monitoring group PedoWatch.org has confirmed that on-line pedophiles are telling each other to use public libraries to download child pornography (Lake Oswego, Oregon)
- 7,000 porn sites accessed in 2 days in Chesterfield, Va's 9 public libraries. Board of Supervisors voted to filter all terminals (June 2001)

## TERRORISTS

- Encryption communication used by Bin Laden and al-Queda to hide maps, terrorist targets & activities in sports chat rooms & porn bulletin boards. (U.S. officials, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 9/16/01)
- Terrorists used Florida public library terminals to access Internet. (Sun Sentinel 9/01)

## Filtering in Schools

- 90% of public schools are connected to the Internet (President Bill Clinton, Democratic National Convention, 2000)
- 1 in 4 parents think their child's school is using protective software (FamilyPC, 2000)
- 75 % of schools use filtering (Consortium for School Networking, 2001)

## SAFETY RULES

- Keep the computer in a public area and monitor Internet use
- Spend time online with your children
- Know your child's online friends and activities
- Teach your children never to give out personal information such as their name, school, address, phone number or picture
- Instruct your child never to plan a face-to-face meeting with someone that they have met online

## SAFETY RULES (CONTINUED)

- Do not allow your children to have an online profile
- Only let your children in chatrooms under your close direct supervision
- Only let your children use instant messaging with people you know and approve
- Utilize protective software tools

## Operation Avalanche (August 6, 2001)

- Largest online child porn ring busted
- 250,000 subscribers
- Operated out of Fort Worth
- 100 subscribers arrested
- Owner sentenced to 1,335 yrs
- DOJ, US Postal Inspector Service and Dallas Police joint effort

## TECHNOLOGY PRONG

### WHAT CAN THE TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY DO?

- Develop technological solutions
- Implement technological solutions
- Corporate family friendly policy
- Choose not to offer newsgroups offering child pornography & obscenity
- Cooperate with law enforcement

## TECHNOLOGY TOOLS

- Desktop solutions - filtering, monitoring (Predator Guard)
- Server based filtering- (FamilyClick)
- “Go lists/Suggest lists” - (Internet Kids & Family Yellow Pages)
- Closed white lists- Pre-approved sites
- Safe Search Engines - (AJKids.com)
- Content Rating - (ICRA)
- Filtering solutions are not 100% effective