



Family Insider

Coming to a Screen Near You—Portable Porn.

Table of Contents

- Family Insider 1
- Tech Tip 2
- Site Spotlight 2
- Ask an Expert 3
- In Action 3
- Did You Know? 4
- In Your Neighborhood 4
- The Power of One 5
- Internet Safety Tip for Parents 5
- Get Involved 6



PSPs—portable media—a 21st-century kid’s dream. But they can also be a parent’s nightmare: All of this new technology has placed an additional concern on parents’ shoulders—protecting their children from pornography in a mobile world.

Distributors of adult content continue to seek any medium where video or images can be made available, and the digital revolution has now catapulted pornography into the hands of children, this time via iPods and PSP devices

The availability of downloadable porn is vast, and the chances of your children carrying portable porn or being exposed to pornography away from home have exponentially increased, making it harder for parents to supervise what their children are viewing and easier for pedophiles to “groom” their potential victims.

MP3-compatible videos are also being offered by online-dating services. The poddater.com Web site, for users 16 years of age and older, describes its service for someone “on the go who wants

continued on page 2

In October 2005, Apple introduced the new iPod Video featuring a 2.5-inch color screen designed to display photos and videos, including music videos, pod casts, home movies, and TV or other video productions. According to apple.com, more than 2,000 films and videos are available via the iTunes Music Store for a nominal per-video price. As of October 31, 2005, customers had purchased and downloaded more than one million videos from iTunes in the 20 days since the iPod video was introduced.

While the video capabilities of the MP3 player are brand new, PlayStation has offered similar features on its PSP™ (PlayStation®Portable) gaming device to U.S. users since March 2005. The PSP allows users to enjoy games, music, videos, photos, and, if used in a location with wireless Internet connection, Internet access.

It’s the holiday season, and most kids have started their wish lists. On the top of many of these lists are iPods and

NAC Tracks

Now that you’ve read the “Family Insider,” i-SAFE’s National Assessment Center (NAC) wants you to sound off.

Are you buying your child an iPod Video or PlayStation® Portable this holiday season?

Yes

No

“All it takes for darkness to reign is for good people to stand by and do nothing.”

- Anonymous

Family Insider ~ Portable Porn *continued from page 1*



to find new friends. It doesn't matter who you are or what you're looking for. Sign up. Check us out. Watch some videos. Have some fun." This could be a pedophile's open door to lure, groom, and victimize your children.

Parental controls and filters are being developed to restrict access to adult content available for downloading. iPod offers parental controls to restrict explicit content, or to completely disable pod casts or music store downloads. However, this is not an all-in-one solution. With the availability of downloads from multiple sites and insufficient filtering technology

to block images effectively, it is up to the parents to monitor their child's technology use. Let your children know that you will periodically check their iPods and PSPs to see what has been downloaded, and educate other parents about this new threat to their child's online safety.

Contact us at outreach@isafe.org to learn more about how you can become part of the i-PARENT Campaign to educate yourself and others on Internet safety issues.

Looking for something educational for your kids this holiday season? Everything you could need and your kids could want is at your fingertips at www.discovery-world.com.



Tech Tip

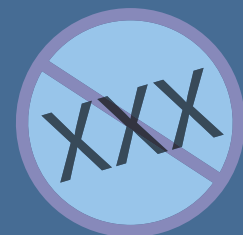
Q: I have caught my son on numerous occasions looking at what I consider pornographic images. We have talked to him about it, but he claims he wasn't looking for it, it just "happened." Is there some kind of filter or something we can use to block these images?

A: This is a very common question that we get here at i-SAFE. Although our stance is that no filtering software can replace the need to educate your children about being safe on the Internet, we also understand that in some situations, your child may be exposed to unwanted content while engaged in otherwise safe Internet behavior.

A content advisory system has been built into every Microsoft Windows PC since the dawn of the Internet Explorer browser back in 1996. It is the Content Advisor Tool that is part of Windows Internet Explorer software. Initially it used an independent content rating system created by the Recreational Software Advisory Council (RSACi); that system was replaced in 2000 by the Internet Content Rating Association (ICRA). Although both content raters are built on the same engine, the modern ICRA system requires some additional steps to configure but is the most current. If you are interested in learning more, check out the Web site (http://www.icra.org/_it/faq/content_advisor/) for some helpful tips on

getting up and running.

In addition to the tools already installed on your PC, your Internet Service Provider (ISP) may offer some filtering tools, as well. So check out their customer support for advice on parental control features offered. All filtering and parental controls can be circumvented, so they are not a cure-all. To insure that your children are fully aware of the dangers on the Internet, nothing beats a solid Internet Safety curriculum like the one offered by i-SAFE America.



Ask an Expert



Dear i-SAFE,

I am receiving IMs from someone I do not know. How do I block weirdos from contacting me or my kids via Instant Messenger?

Mary Ellen, VA

Dear Mary Ellen,

I'm not sure which IM program you are using, but most IMs allow you to block a user so he/she can no longer contact you or your child.

If you are using AIM:

To block messages from an individual:

1. In the "Instant Message" window, click the "Block" button.
2. Click OK to confirm that you want to block the specific user.

To control who can send you instant messages:

1. In the "Buddy List" window, click "My AIM" followed by "Edit Options" then "Edit Preferences."
2. From the left Category menu, click "Privacy."
3. Select your preferences for who can exchange instant messages with you (allow only people on your "Buddy List").

When you select this preference, only people whose screen names you have added to your "Buddy List" window can see that you are online and send you instant messages. Finally, click "OK."

If you are using MSN:

To block messages from an individual:

1. Click "Block" on the toolbar in the conversation window.
2. If you are in a conversation with multiple people, click "Block" and then click the name of the person you want to block.

To block messages from everyone not on your contact list or on your "My Allow List":

1. In the "Messenger" main window, click the "Tools" menu, click "Options," and then click the "Privacy" tab.
2. Under "My Allow List," click "All Others," and then click "Block."
3. All others move to your "Block" list. This forces anyone who wants to send you messages to add you to their own contact list.

If you are using a program other than AIM or MSN, you can most likely obtain details on blocking a user by contacting the product's support section of their Web site or e-mailing them directly.

In Action

Hello from lovely Anchorage, Alaska! I am a librarian in the Anchorage School District (ASD) at Nunaka Valley Elementary School. I work with students in grades K through 6, run the school paper the *Nunaka Times*, and host our annual Battle of the Books!

At Nunaka Valley Elementary, we understand that education about the safe and responsible use of the Internet must be supported at home. So we held a Parent Night—but not just any Parent Night. This one was cohosted with students in fifth and sixth grade! That's right: elementary students educating their parents!

It all began with a survey sent out to students in grades 3 through 6. Mrs. Theonnes class compiled the information and created a PowerPoint presentation complete with graphs and charts! It highlighted responses like how many computers your family has, where they're located, how you use them, etc. It was a great way to share school and safety information with parents, and get students involved.

I share my experiences in Anchorage to show others a parent meeting can be anything you want it to be. There are so many different ways to make these events fun for the entire family. The ASD prides itself on being a leader when it comes to education. I hope you follow our lead and find new ways to educate and empower your community on the Internet!

Sincerely,

Janell Larson

Anchorage School District

Did You Know?

Online Shopping Tips

'Tis the season to shop online. In this time of gift-giving, we must remember that it's also a time of identity stealing. Here are the top five ways to avoid the Grinch and make your online shopping experience merry:

1. Trusted names. Shop on Web sites of reputable companies. If it is a lesser-known entity, call and ask about their privacy policy. If you cannot reach a real person on the phone, shop at another site.
2. Look for the plural URL. When you reach the Web site's checkout page, make sure the URL changed from "http" to "https" and/or has an image of a padlock posted on the Web page. The telltale sign that you are on a scammer's site are the numbers at the beginning of the URL, such as <http://10.23.70>.
3. Avoid shared computers. A computer with multiple users in a public place is an easy target. Hackers can insert a key logger in the back (looks like a harmless adapter) and capture all your information before it is encrypted.
4. Pay with plastic. Most credit cards have protection if stolen. Avoid using debit cards since money comes directly from your bank account.
5. When in doubt . . . If a site asks for your date of birth and social security number, stop! If it seems too good to be true, then it probably is. If it's suspicious, call the company.



Online Learning

i-SAFE revolutionizes Internet safety education with two new programs. i-LEARN Online for adults, and i-MENTOR Training Network for students. These "on-demand" online learning systems allow you to stop, pause, rewind, and learn at your convenience.

i-LEARN Online: the six subjects every adult needs to know to keep their kids safe online

- personal safety
- cyber community issues
- cyber predator identification
- cyber security
- intellectual property
- effective outreach

i-MENTOR Training Network: the ultimate in peer-to-peer networking

(P2P) as students spread the message to their friends, parents, and community

- assembly experience
- community leaders
- intern program
- certified mentor
- i-PARENT program
- i-Adopt-a-School

Find out how easy the i-LEARN Online program is today with one click of the mouse <http://ilearn.isafe.org/>, or help your children become an i-MENTOR by going to http://www.isafe.org/channels/sub.php?ch=kt&sub_id=imn.

Digital Divide

A recent survey from i-SAFE's National Assessment Center (NAC) reveals that 87 percent of parents say they have established rules for their children's Internet use. This should be a statistic that helps us sleep better at night. I'm sure those parents who say they have rules do sleep well. But here's where the nightmare creeps in: 36 percent of students tell the NAC that their parents have NOT established rules for Internet use. That should be your wake-up call!

Obviously talk is overrated when it comes to kids listening. Parents need to write out a list of rules for their children about Internet use and post it by the family computer and on the refrigerator. Make sure your children are aware of these rules, and update the list regularly. Involve your kids in the creation and the revisions. Good luck!

In Your Neighborhood



Every day there are i-SAFE America events going on across the country. We have made it easy for you to get involved and help spread the message of Internet safety to your peers and your community. Simply check out our Calendar of Events at http://www.isafe.org/channels/sub.php?ch=ai&sub_id=3 to find an event near you.

The Power of One



The Internship

The i-MENTOR Training Network is a place where you can learn about different online topics that are helpful in educating others in a positive manner. These videos are fun to watch, and they deliver a message in a very upbeat way. I learned not only how to understand each topic but also to turn my learning experience into a training tool.

Working with community leaders, congressmen and women, and various law-enforcement agencies can be integral when it comes to Internet safety. The best way to do this is through a Community Leaders Meeting. If you're looking into a career in law enforcement, this is a good way to get connected.

A great way to involve people in your school and community using a multimedia event like a PowerPoint presentation is to conduct an Assembly Experience. In an Assembly Experience, you watch live videos to get your point across to the audience. This is a great way to get the

word out to other students.

The Intern Program helps students fulfill community service or even get some service-learning credits. It's also a great way to meet other students who are involved in community-service projects. Another plus is having this internship on your resume or high school transcript. The Intern Program is a fun way to get involved.

Taking what is learned about internet safety and training others defines the Certified Mentor Program. It gives students the opportunity to take training out of the classroom and into the community. This program is also a great way to get your local communityteam (YMCA, FBCLA, FCCLA, DECA) out to train others about online dangers.

Imagine being able to teach Mom or Dad a thing or two. The i-PARENT Program is a great opportunity to do just that. It is a way for you, as a student, to

teach your parents about the many online dangers that exist. You can talk to them about cyber bullying, cyber predators, identity theft, intellectual property, and cyber security basics. I can't wait to take this home to my mom and dad.

What's better than being able to share your experience with younger kids? The i-Adopt-A-School Program is great because you get to work with younger students by adopting their schools and giving them the chance to be safe online. You get an opportunity to go out and give i-SAFE Internet safety lessons on these very serious topics that affect us all online daily.

Ryan, intern, Oceanside, CA

Internet Safety Tip for Parents



The most common question asked by parents about Internet safety is, "What is the most important thing for me to

do for my children?" It is the question with the simplest answer, yet one most parents find extremely difficult.

This month's tip: Talk to your child.

This is the first generation of parents to raise children in the cyber world. And what you need to realize is that parenting is the same online as it is offline.

Do you know who your children's friends are in your neighborhood and at school? Find out who they chat/instant message/e-mail with. Find out who is on their "Buddy List." And if you do not know what a "Buddy List" is, then you really need to wake up to what your kids are doing online.

Do you know where your children

go when they walk out of your house? Find out where they are traveling on the Information Superhighway. And just like when they leave the house, let them know there are dangers they may encounter. Warn them of the dangers and how to respond when confronted by a questionable situation.

Actor Kelsey Grammer said it best in one of our public-service announcements (PSAs) when he said, ". . . you don't have to be a computer expert, you only have to care about the safety of your child." Remember, it is never too early or too late to get involved with your children's online experience. Start today!

Get Involved

An effective campaign needs effective leaders. The goal for i-SAFE parents this month is to form an i-PARENT Board.

Take your i-PARENT Campaign to the next level by creating or joining an i-PARENT Board. This is a local group of parents and community advocates that does things like distributing Internet safety tip sheets, manning tables at events, and conducting i-PARENT Programs for the community.

Parents provide a strong local voice and are the most important constituents to local school boards. In most cases, they hold the key to establishing i-SAFE schools. Your i-PARENT Board will advocate for i-SAFE curriculum to be implemented in all schools, therefore keeping all children safe online.

Take action. Make a difference. E-mail us at parents@isafe.org and form an i-PARENT Board today.



Questions, Comments, or Contributions

At i-SAFE America, we welcome them all. Do you have a question or a comment about an article? Do you have a story you wish to share with other readers? Do you know somebody whose story will inspire others to get involved? Whatever the case, we would like to know. Please e-mail us at editor@isafe.org with questions, comments, or contributions. If snail mail is your preference, send written correspondence to:

i-SAFE Editor
5963 La Place Court
Suite #309
Carlsbad, CA 92008

All communication with the editor will be confidential unless otherwise specified by you, the sender.

Thank you for your input, but more importantly, thank you for reading and making a difference in your community.

Sincerely,

i-SAFE America

The series of i-SAFE newsletters also includes the **i-EDUCATOR Times** and **Kewl Timez** (for students). We encourage you to read the others and ask you to use the main article to initiate discussion and action with your students and your community.

About i-SAFE

Founded in 1998 and active in all 50 states, i-SAFE America Inc. is the leader in Internet-safety education. i-SAFE is a nonprofit foundation whose mission is to educate and empower youth to make their Internet experiences safe and responsible. The goal is to educate students on how to avoid dangerous, inappropriate, or unlawful online behavior. i-SAFE accomplishes this through dynamic K through 12 curriculum and community outreach programs to parents, law enforcement, and community leaders. It is the only Internet safety foundation to combine these elements. www.isafe.org

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