Dangers of Cyberspace: Technologies

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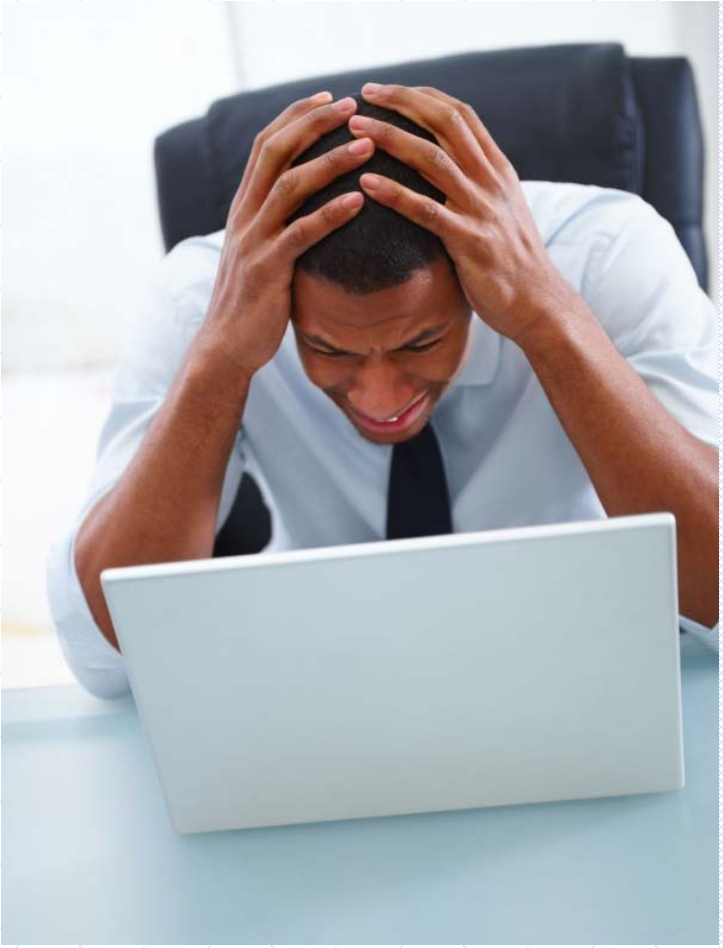
CYBERBULLYING

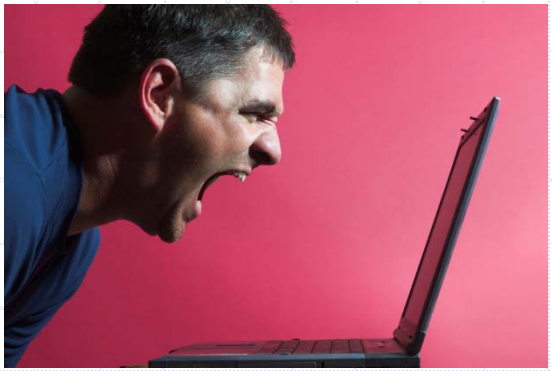
- What is cyberbullying?
- Who is cyberbullying?
- Who is at risk?
- What are the effects of cyberbullying?



What is cyberbullying?

- Cyberbullying is “using the internet or other mobile devices to send or post harmful or cruel texts or images to bully others.”
  - Nancy Willard, director of the Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use.

(Fredrick, 2009 p. 44)



Types of cyberbullying:

- Flaming
- Harassment
- Denigration
- Impersonation
- Outing
- Trickery
- Exclusion
- Cyber stalking

(Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use, 2009)

Types of cyberbullying: A closer look

- **Flaming** – Online fight using electronic messages with angry and vulgar language
- **Harassment** – Repeatedly sending mean or insulting messages
- **Denigration** – Sending or posting gossip or rumors about a person to damage his or her reputation or friendships.
- **Impersonation** – Pretending to be someone else and sending or posting material to get that person in trouble or danger or to damage a reputation or friendship.

(Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use, 2009)

Types of cyberbullying: A closer look (Cont.)

- **Outing** – Sharing someone's secrets or embarrassing information or images online
- **Trickery** – Talking someone into revealing secrets or embarrassing information, then revealing it online
- **Exclusion** – Intentionally and cruelly excluding someone from an online group
- **Cyberstalking** – Repeated intense harassment and denigration that includes threats or creates significant fear.

(Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use, 2009)

Who is at RISK?

Individuals whom are:

- Older adolescents
- Active on social networking sites
- Males and females
- At risk for traditional bullying, such as the fearful, unpopular, depressed adolescents
- Looking for acceptance and attention online
- Lacking in coping skills
- Mentally unhealthy
- Experiencing family difficulties

(Feinberg & Robey, 2009 pgs. 26-31) (Mesch 2009 p. 387)

Who is Cyberbullying?

Those who:

- Are older adolescents
- Are males and females
- Have poor relationships with their caregivers
- Engage in delinquent activity
- Engage in frequent substance abuse
- Use the internet daily
- Are often victims of bullying themselves and use online bullying as a form of retaliation

(Feinberg & Robey, 2009 pgs. 26-31)

Effects of Cyberbullying

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Low self-esteem
- Anger
- Violence
- Suicide
- School failure or avoidance

(Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use, 2009)

Effects of Cyberbullying

- Some believe the effects of cyberbullying to be greater than the effects of traditional bullying because:
  - It can occur 24/7... anytime and anyplace
  - The internet can provide anonymity
  - It can be sent out to many people worldwide very quickly.

(Feinberg & Robey, 2009 pgs. 26-31)

What is “Sexting”

Sexting (a portmanteau of sex and texting) is the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically, primarily between cell phones.

(http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexting)

Child Pornography Law

18 U.S.C. 2251 : US Code - Section 2251: Sexual exploitation of children

(a) Any person who employs, uses, persuades, induces, entices, or coerces any minor to engage in, or who has a minor assist any other person to engage in, or who transports any minor in interstate or foreign commerce, or in any Territory or Possession of the United States, with the intent that such minor engage in, any sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing any visual depiction of such conduct...

And continues:

(A) to receive, exchange, buy, produce, display, distribute, or reproduce, any visual depiction, if the production of such visual depiction involves the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct and such visual depiction is of such conduct; or(B) participation in any act of sexually explicit conduct by or with any minor for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct;

According to the law, minors engaged in sexting are both *producing* and *distributing* child pornography.

(http://codes.lp.findlaw.com/uscode/18/I/110/2251)

Growing Trend

A recent survey by MTV found that:

- 30% of youths surveyed said they had engaged in some form of sexting.
- 61% of those engaged in sexting reported they were pressured to send images by their peers.
- Girls are more likely to share a naked image of themselves than boys.
- Sexually active youth are far more likely to engage in sexting.
- 29% of those surveyed reported sharing naked pictures of themselves with people they knew ONLY online.

(Zetter, K., 2009)

Legal and Social Consequences

- Minors that engage in sexting are often convicted as sex offenders and MUST register as sex offenders for the rest of their lives.
- There is NO distinction made between sex offenders that have been convicted of sexting and those that have been convicted of more serious crimes like rape and child molestation.
- Sex offenders and their families are heavily discriminated against by society.
- Minors that engage in sexting often face isolation and ridicule among their peers.
- Extreme cases exist where minors have committed suicide due to stress caused by ostracism and ridicule by peers.

(Celizic, M., 2009), (Feyerick, D. & Steffen, S. 2009).

I Get Around

School districts are spending millions of dollars to protect children on the internet, but the students find ways to "get around" just about anything.

(Villano, M., 2008)

CIPA

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) is part of federal and state legislation intended to guard students' safety online

The CIPA is one method of internet security, but it is far from perfect.

(Villano, M., 2008)

Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)

Advantages

- Restricts access to internet material deemed objectionable
- Helps protect students from online harm
- Districts have a good hold on what students are doing on the internet while at school

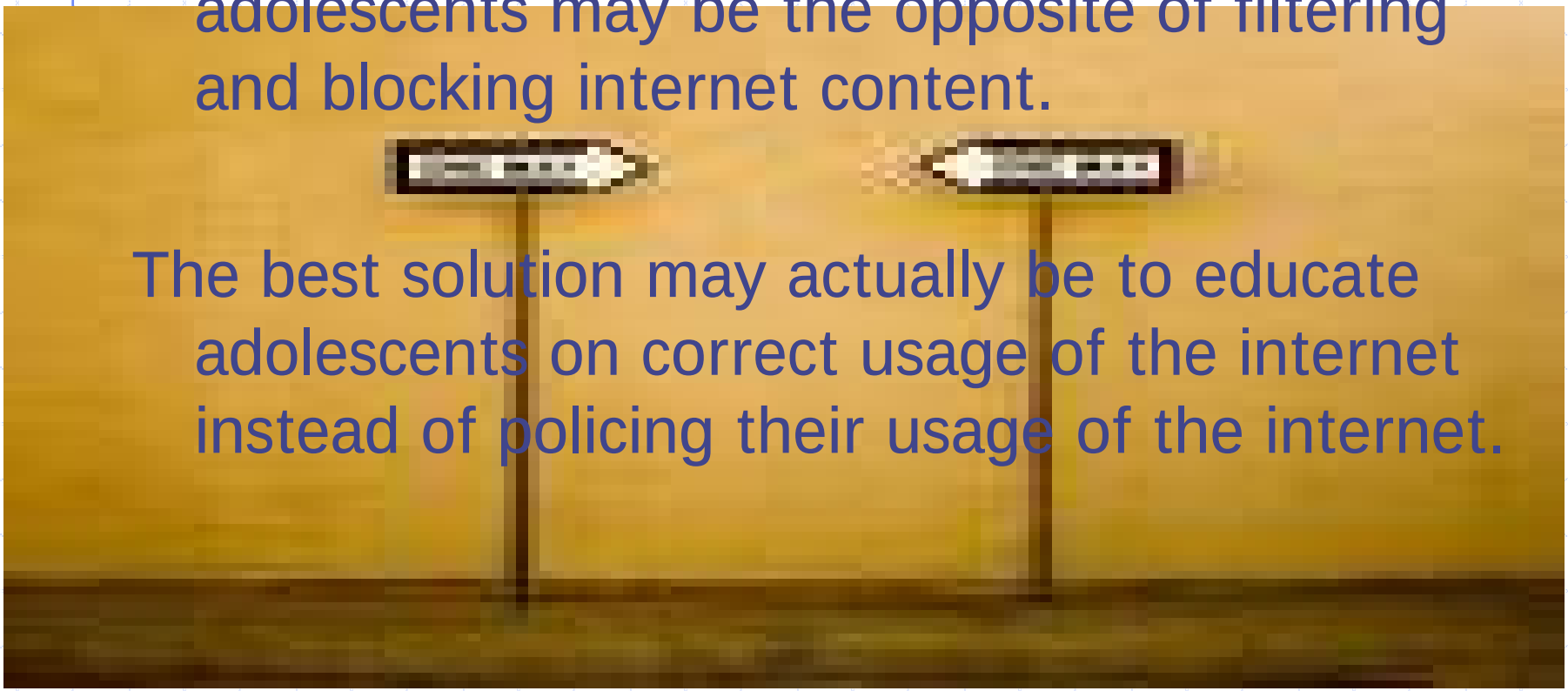
Disadvantages

- Opponents argue that the filters block useful material and tools
- Students are able to use proxies, which enable them to bypass filters and view sites that should not be viewed

(Villano, M., 2008)

Switching Positions

The best solution to finding online safety for adolescents may be the opposite of filtering and blocking internet content.



The best solution may actually be to educate adolescents on correct usage of the internet instead of policing their usage of the internet.

(Villano, M., 2008)

The Best Front Line Preventer

- Parents maintaining open lines of communications with their children is a good deterrent for inappropriate internet usage, sexting, and helping to keep adolescents safer when utilizing technology.
- Maintain open communication so that adolescents are not afraid to discuss what happens when they are online or texting.

(NetSmartz.org)

Preventing Unsafe Usage of Technology

Role of the Adolescent:

- Think about the consequences
- Never do or send something that you would not want everyone to know about
- Remember you have no control of where things go once you hit “send”
- Know that as a sender, you can be traced
- Report any inappropriate material to someone you trust immediately

(NetSmartz.org)

Preventing Unsafe Usage of Technology

Role of the Parent

- Place computer in the family room, with monitor facing out
- Limit adolescent time online and monitor usage
- Learn how to use technologies and monitor websites visited by viewing the history log
- Make the homepage a kid-safe site
- Establish clear online behavior guidelines

(McDermott, I.,1999)

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- http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexting

Quiz

1. Which type of cyberbullying includes sending or posting gossip or rumors about a person to damage his or her reputation or friendships?
   a) Trickery
   b) Flaming
   c) Denigration
   d) Exclusion
2. Which is not a factor in being a victim of cyberbullying?
   a) Being active on social networking sites
   b) Experiencing family difficulties
   c) Age
   d) Gender
3. Cyberbullying is not as harmful as face-to-face bullying.
   a) True
   b) False

Quiz

4. In effort to help keep adolescents secure when using present technologies and being online what would be the most appropriate thing to do?
   a) Keep all adolescents away from computers
   b) Set clear guidelines for using the internet with adolescents
   c) Punish the adolescent when you catch them on appropriate sites
   d) Place the computer in a corner in the adolescents room

5. Filtering internet site access is foolproof.
   a) True
   b) False

6. One thing adolescents should consider before sexting is:
   a) Hiding their cell phone from their parent
   b) Sending their text to people they don’t know
   c) Allowing other people to use their cell phone
   d) The consequences of sending inappropriate material

Quiz

7. Which is an advantage of the Children's Internet Protection Act?
   a) Schools have greater control over what students are doing on school computers
   b) Students are able to get around filters using proxies
   c) Useful internet tools are block from classroom usage
   d) Students can visit any site at school that they want to

8. What is 'Sexting'?

9. What are the legal consequences of 'sexting'?

10. What are the social consequences of 'sexting'?