

## Controlling Child's Internet Access

In any country children are the most valuable asset. Internet (WWW) is a very useful resource for children as well as adults to gather information and connect with others whom may be anywhere in the world.

Children use internet to find information for their homework, chat with friends, instant messaging, email, play games and many other activities. Teenagers use internet to perform the tasks that you as a parent did at the library and using phone, paper and pencil when you were their age.

There are various people connected to the Internet with different perspectives. So children are the most vulnerable members of the society, if you don't control their activities properly.

There are millions of web sites managed by individuals or groups use to sexually exploit children with their on-line services through Internet. Some of them gradually approach children through the use of attention, kindness and even by offering gifts. They gather the information of the children by using various methods like chatting, e-mail etc. and pretending to be very helpful persons to those children to solve their problems. Gradually they introduce sexual context in to the conversations and attract the teenagers.

Some of the offenders collect and trade pornographic images while others may try to engage in sexual conversations with children.

As parents you should be aware of your child's activities using the computer and Internet. It is advisable to you to take attention on following signs which may alert you to observe his/her behavior further.

- Your child spent lot of time on-line (connected to Internet) specially at night
- You find pornography in your child's computer
- Your child has used your credit card without informing you
- Your child is speaking with foreign person over the phone whom you may not know before
- Your child switch off / change the screen of the monitor when you come to the room
- Your child is using other's Internet accounts to connect to the Internet
- Your child always try to be alone with the computer

If you have observed one or more of the activities (not limited to the above) you should make immediate action to further investigate the situation. The following actions may help you to analyze it.

- Try to get a detailed Internet access bill from your ISP (you can analyze the date and time you child has connected to the Internet)
- Analyze your child's computer with the support of knowledgeable person
- Ask your child if credit card is used and verify the answer with the credit card bill
- Check detailed telephone bill for unknown numbers (specially overseas) dialed
- Use CLI(Callers Line Identification) feature to identify the caller
- Monitor your child's communications (chats, emails etc)

Also as a parent you may be able to minimize the possibility of your child being a victim of cyber crimes by considering following activities.

- Keep the computer in a common space in your home which may be always observable by you
- Take special care when your child is online (connected to the Internet)
- Educate your children not to chat, email, phone to others whom they don't know well
- Educate your children on possible harm to the computer by downloading suspicious files or viewing unknown sites

- Get filtered Internet access from your Internet service provider
- Educate children how offenders can misuse their information

Children's access to Internet has grown rapidly. Only irresponsible parent would allow their child unrestricted access to the Internet.

Note: some images to insert to the article

