TECHNOLOGY 101

App:

App is the common reference for an application or computer program that provides a service to users and are generally used on cell phones and smartphones (phones using Android and iPhone technology). That's what all those crazy buttons are on your kids' phones. Apps are available for games like Angry Birds, check-in services like Four Square and social networking sites like MySpace and Facebook. Many apps are available for free download and not all of them are appropriate for children. Some apps allow users to secretly send pictures, make calls and send texts that don't show up on the phone bill, video chat and connect with friends - and anyone else. It's a good idea to discuss what apps might be on your child's phone - and ask them to show you how they work. You may find something you could use!

Cyberbullying:

Cyberbullying is the repeated use of technology to frighten, intimidate or cause emotional distress to another individual over an extended period of time. It occurs in chat rooms, discussion boards, on social networking sites, while gaming and by text message. It often makes victims feel there is no safe escape from this kind of harassment. Cyberbullying can lead to anxiety, isolation and depression. It should be identified, discussed and resolved as quickly as possible to prevent long-term emotional damage.

Social Networking:

Social networks connect millions of users at one time and are used to share ideas, make new friends, post about your activities, gaming and for many reasons. Each user creates a profile or page describing themselves and their interests. Users can connect with people they know and people they've never met before. Users can post both photo and video of themselves and follow (keep track of other users) or friend (let other users see what they post). Social networking often leads to the sharing of very personal information which can later become public. Young people often believe their social networking account is private, but nothing could be further from the truth. Examples of social networking sites are Bebo, Tumblr, Facebook, and MySpace.

Check-Ins:

Check-In sites allow users to post (online) where they are and what products they enjoy. For example, if you are a fan of the local coffee shop you can sign up for a check-in site that allows you to earn coupons toward a free coffee. Each time you post your location at the shop (check-in) you earn more points. Some check-ins even allow you to become "Mayor" of the coffee shop. Unfortunately check-in services collect quite a bit of personal data about you, and each time you check-in, it posts your location. Excessive checking-in can provide someone a pretty accurate dea of where you are each day by following your check-in habits.

SMS/Text:

An SMS, or text message, is a message sent from cell phone to cell phone. Text messages often seem to be the preferred method of communication for today's kids and young people can rack up hundreds of text messages per month. Photos and video can also be sent by text message.

Sexting:

The term sexting refers to the sending of explicit text messages, pictures or video. We often see news stories about adults involved in sexting scandals where pictures intended for one person end up being forwarded to many people, and unfortunately some of our children our following in those footsteps. The emotional and social cost of this behavior can be substantial. Both boys and girls create and solicit one

another to create these photos, as do adults looking for sexual interaction with children. Sometimes these photos are used to manipulate children into sexual situations with their peers and with adults (sextortion). The creation of these photos is a felony under both state and federal law.

Internet:

The Internet is a linking of computer networks. Think of each network as a neighborhood in your town. You can speak with the neighbor next door or across the street by simply walking next door. By using the roads within your neighborhood you can walk to or drive to any other neighborhood in your city and speak to anyone. Now think of the Internet as the electronic roads and interstate expressways that connect all the neighborhoods of your city, state and the world. This connection via the digital roads makes it possible for anyone with access to the Internet to visit, chat or speak with anyone else connected to the Internet. It makes the world an online global village. The Internet can be accessed by any device that has the ability to make a connection - computers, cell phones, tablets and iPods are just few of these devices.

Chat Room:

A chat room is a type of virtual park. A chat room allows people from anywhere in the world to visit the same virtual park. Depending on the provider of the chat room it can contain anywhere from one to a thousand people. Usually chat rooms are named for the content that will be discussed in the chat room. Names like Gardening, Home Repair, or Classic cars. Sometimes users, especially teens, name a chat room something completely different to disguise what they are talking about. Chat rooms can be full of inappropriate language and adult content, even with a name like Garden Gnomes. Unfortunately some chat rooms are created for illegal purposes and children and teens may find their way into these chat rooms. Most service providers will close these rooms upon notification of their existence.

Instant Message (IM):

An instant message is a private communication between two people online using a chat client. If I am in a chat room and type something, any in the chat room can read the message. This means if there are a hundred people in the room ninety-eight other people may read the message. By using an instant message only the person I sent the message to will be able to read that message. It is a form of private, one on one chatting (which allows a sexual predator access to potential victims).

Email Message:

An email message can take several forms. I can send a basic typed message which is very similar to hand carried postal service (sometimes referred to as "snail mail" because of the speed or lack of speed of the delivery). An email message can be about any subject. An email message can also include an attachment. This attachment can be a picture or a series of pictures. The pictures can also be embedded in the email message which allows them to be viewed in the body of the email message and does not require the download or use of another program to view the images. An email attachment can also be a movie. The movie can be from a digital movie camera and show family member at a gathering - or the movie could be pornographic in nature. Email messages can also contain hyperlinks to other content. This content may be a website, a picture, a movie, or possibly some content (virus) that would be harmful to your computer. It's important to teach kids to ignore email from unknown senders.

Website/Webpage:

A website is a type of electronic or digital store front. Using the Internet you can browse through these "stores" and view the goods for sale or trade. Some store fronts are only informational and will provide assistance with homework, research, or medical questions. Just as some store fronts in real life can be

located in dangerous areas of our communities, store fronts on the Internet can be dangerous. They may link you to other storefronts with content for sale that you never asked for or wanted to view. These store fronts can be the source of dangerous or malicious computer programs designed to steal personal information, infect your computer with a virus, or acquire remote access to your computer. The best advice for visiting any digital store front is to type in the name of the store front yourself. Do not trust links from emails, or another digital store front.

File:

A file is the term used to describe many things within a computer or the digital world. A file can be just words, or a mixture of words and pictures. You can determine what type of file it is by looking up the file extension (the letters after the period).

Trojan:

A Trojan is a computer file that seeks to sneak into your computer or onto your website and allow certain unauthorized activity to take place on your computer or website. The Trojan file maybe received in an email downloaded from a website, can be disguised as a picture or audio file sent during a chat or instant message conversation, or it can be obtained by using digital media from another person or computer system, such as borrowing a homemade cd or flash drives. Once the Trojan is installed (on you computer) it can cause many things to happen. Some are the destruction of data, the copying of data, and or the allowing of remote access to your computer by someone else on the Internet. The use of updated antivirus and firewall programs can greatly reduce the risk of being victimized by a Trojan.

Spyware:

Spyware is software that is installed on your machine without your knowledge, or hidden within the end user agreements - the things we all click "I Accept" on. You may not be aware you gave your permission for the software to be present on your computer. Some of the uses of the spyware is to monitor your use of programs and report back to their manufacturers on how or how often the program is used. Spyware can also track your online habits and report back information on your shopping habits. Spyware can also record personal data and report back to whoever created the spyware. In some cases Spyware is exactly that and can be used to remotely turn on a webcam. There are several free anti-spyware tools that can be used to identify and deal with spyware on your computer. Updated antivirus and firewall programs can aide in identifying and defeating spyware programs.

Blog or Online Journal:

A Blog or Online Journal are websites that allow an individual to "post" or write any information. Most blogs or online journals are used to relate the author's viewpoint on many different subjects. Our children use blogs or online journals as their digital coming out party. Children will open a blog or online journal and then relate what is happening in their lives in minute detail. Information about their day at school, after school activities, girlfriends, boyfriends and the rest of their social life are described in great details. The blog or online journal generally allows for interaction from readers (followers). It allows followers to post replies. As with online profiles, blogs and online journals need to be monitored to make sure the child is not giving out to much information. Some blogs or online journals have contained the child's full name, address, cell number, name of school and the date and location where the child could be found at after school activities. Obviously this type of information could be very dangerous in the hands of a sexual predator. Most children have the misconception that whatever they write on their blog or online journal is private and can only be read by people they give permission. This is not always true. Ask your child to review the security settings and permissions on their blog

frequently. There are several free search engines for blogs and online journals that may display what the child thought was private to anyone that knows how to use the search engine.

Vlog/Vlogging:

The video version of blogging. Many young people create and send video using their cell phones and digital cameras. Often these videos are full of daily routines, new thoughts and opinions much like blogs. Generally they contain scenes of harmless fun. They can also be full of inappropriate language, sexualized behavior, threats, not so harmless pranks and criminal activity. Young people sometimes videotape embarrassing situations happening to other people and post them online for the world to see. While vlogging and posting video can be a great source of fun it pays to speak to your child about what acceptable video should contain. Just like blogs, social network posts and text messages, video can be forwarded to people the child never intended and they frequently share entirely too much information.

Profile:

A profile is a list of personal information the author of the profile is willing to share. When filling out a profile you must remember that anyone else using the Internet maybe able to see the information in your profile. Information such as your full name, your address, dorm room location, and telephone number can be dangerous in a profile. This type of information may lead to unwanted subjects contacting or stalking you. Information such as your full name and date of birth may lead to you being the victim of identity theft or fraud. Any images placed in your profile should be appropriate in nature. A good rule of thumb for images is; if you would not show it to your mother or grandmother; do not put it on your profile. Remember what is funny or cute to you in junior high school, high school or college may not be funny ten years later during a job interview.

Internet Crimes Against Children:

Technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation; which includes the possession, distribution and creation of child pornography, as well as attempts by individuals to lure and travel to meet children for sexual encounters.

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