



CYBER SAFETY CHECKLIST

For the Home User with Kids

www.bytecrime.org

- Parents, educate yourselves first:** Know about online predators, financial scams, viruses, cyber-bullying and the pervasiveness of pornography on the Internet.
- Talk to your child:** Open communication between parents and children is important to keeping your kids safe. Ensure that they can talk to you about things on the Web that make them feel uncomfortable.
- Monitor your children:** Consider options like sharing an email account, checking your browser's history, keep the computer in a common room and maintaining access to your kids' accounts.
- Recommend kid directories:** There are a number of search sites geared for children. Others are targeted at teens.
- Parental control software:** One option is to purchase software that establishes computer user time limits and controls access to sites, games, chat, and file sharing. It can be adapted to offer different levels of control for different ages of children.
- Install the right defensive software:** Make sure you have quality anti-virus, anti-spyware, spam blocker, and a personal firewall, and keep security patches up-to-date.
- Carefully select mobile devices:** Look for digital device models that are "child-safe," which often don't provide camera or Web access. Some child-safe phones even let parents limit the numbers the phone can call.

Tell the Kids

- Don't give out personal information:** Make sure to never give out your name, email, home address, phone number, account numbers, Social Security number, picture or any other personal information.
- Look out for Internet scams:** Online criminals think of clever ways to rob you. Don't get lured in by emails telling sad stories, giving away money or promising fun times.
- Take care when shopping online:** Check with your parents first and then only buy from trusted online stores.
- Don't open unknown email:** If you have no idea where an email comes from, take the safe course and delete it before opening it.
- Treat IM seriously:** If your business uses instant messaging treat it just as you would email and stay on guard from dangerous software.
- Beware of file sharing:** Discuss file sharing with your parents first and if they're okay with it, make sure to scan your downloaded files for viruses.
- Create smart passwords:** Your online and computer passwords should be at least 8 characters long and include letters, numbers and symbols. Use different passwords for different accounts, change them every 90 days and never share them with anyone.

