

Think before you upload!

The Asia Pacific Privacy Authorities (APPA) short animated video—Think before you upload!—aims to highlight the possible risks for young people of using online technologies such as social networking and gaming sites.

The primary message is that young people should think about the possible negative consequences of posting material online before they upload it.

The growth of the Internet and other technologies has meant that information can be sent further, faster and by more people at once than ever before. There is the added complication that this information can be stored by others and disseminated for purposes not intended by the original poster.

Social networking sites such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter typically collect and allow people to easily disclose—often unintentionally—large amounts of their personal information. While under Australian privacy laws the companies operating these websites do have obligations to protect personal information, it is also important that young people take some basic steps to protect their privacy online.

Once it's out there, it's everywhere!

Once information is placed on the Internet it is almost impossible for it to be 'taken back' or to stop it from being spread around the world. Any friends can copy the photos or information a person posts and send them to people they don't know (who could also forward the information on to even more people).



You might think it's funny to create an online game about your boss but would you want them to see it?

It is critical that young people are careful about the details they post online as providing too much information about where they live, where they usually go after school or even which school they go to can result in a loss of privacy and a dangerous misuse of their personal information.



You'd post a photo online of you and a friend at a private time - but would you really want your grandmother to see it as well?

This teaching resource is suitable for lower secondary levels.

The video features six short scenes showing ways young people use online technologies and the possible consequences that might then result.

Who sees what?

Young people should also be cautious about the types of images and information they send to other people via mobile phones (or 'smart phones' such as an iPhone); because the people they send this information to have no legal obligation to protect their privacy in the same way that companies or government organisations do under Australian privacy laws.

For these reasons it is important that young people think about the information they're posting online or sending to friends.

Even if they are happy to share the information or images now, they need to think about whether they would want those pictures or that information to be around when they're older—especially if they think it could damage their reputation later on.

They also need to think about who could end up seeing the information or images now. As the animation shows, they might be happy to post photos of themselves at a party for their friends to view but they wouldn't want their parents, boss, coach or teachers to see those photos.

Focus discussion questions

- Discuss the issues and problems that have arisen in each of the scenes.
- Has anything like this happened to you or someone that you know?
- How did they/you deal with what happened?
- What things could the character have done to avoid this situation?
- Can you think of some other problems that relate to the use of social networking and online gaming sites?



You might like to gossip online about other people but would you want that to happen to you?

Student activities

Following discussion, students could choose one or more activity:

- Develop a short script to go with a video of your choice.
- Construct a comic strip or write a play that is a sequel to one of the videos.
- Write a letter to one of the characters from a video advising them of what they could do to minimise problems such as the one shown.
- Storyboard / make an animated video of your own that explores an issue related to privacy and posting information about yourself online.
- Design a range of bumper stickers that promote awareness of privacy issues related to one or more of the videos.
- Design a T-shirt that promotes awareness of privacy.
- Create a pamphlet that outlines the do's and don'ts of setting up a social networking page.
- Choose an organisation or website that you have given some of your personal information to (e.g. social networking site, gaming site, cinema, eNews of some sort, school, medical clinic etc).
Read their Privacy Policy. Is their privacy policy clear? Identify the things you don't understand.
Are there any areas you need further information about?
- Create a checklist that allows people to rate how effectively websites protect personal information.
Investigate three websites that ask young people for their personal information, and use your checklist to assess their level of privacy protection.
Publish your results for others to see in a newsletter, classroom poster etc.

Suggested resources

Australian Communications and Media Authority Cybersmart website

The site includes comprehensive and practical advice for parents, interactive learning activities for children and information about safe social networking for teens.

www.cybersmart.gov.au/

ThinkUKnow

ThinkUKnow is an Internet safety program delivering interactive training to parents, carers and teachers through primary and secondary schools in the ACT, NSW and Victoria using a network of accredited trainers.

www.thinkuknow.org.au/site/

Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Cybersafe Classroom

www.education.vic.gov.au/management/elearningsupportservices/www/classroom/default.htm

Western Australia Department of Education and Training, Managing Student Safety Online

www.det.wa.edu.au/education/cmisis/eval/curriculum/safety/

Irish Data Protection Commissioner's website for teenagers

www.dataprotection.ie

My privacy. My choice. My life. Canadian privacy website for youth.

www.youthprivacy.ca/en/index.html

Norwegian Data Inspectorate *You decide* campaign

www.dubestemmer.no/en/

Asia Pacific Privacy Authorities

Korean Information Security Agency

www.kisa.or.kr

New Zealand Privacy Commissioner

www.privacy.org.nz

Office of the Privacy Commissioner, Australia

www.privacy.gov.au

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for
British Columbia

www.oipc.bc.ca

Office of the Information Commissioner Northern Territory

www.infocomm.nt.gov.au

Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data,
Hong Kong

www.pcpd.org.hk

Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada

www.privcom.gc.ca

Office of the Victorian Privacy Commissioner

www.privacy.vic.gov.au

Privacy New South Wales

www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/privacynsw



If you played up behind the teacher's back in class, would you tell everyone at school assembly?

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Once it's out there, it's everywhere!

You might like to gossip online about other people but would you want that to happen to you?



See the video at www.privacy.vic.gov.au
Your privacy is important.
Think before you upload.

An initiative of the Asia Pacific Privacy Authorities

