

How to Avoid Crimes and Being Offended on the Internet.

The internet is probably the most common tool people use to deal with their everyday matters. Everyone uses it, children, teenagers, adults and the elderly. Almost everyone is aware of the dangers, but only few of us know how to use it to avoid crimes and offences.

What do you think the most complex kind of password that cannot be easily broken is? In our point of view you have to find things that are not known by people surrounding you. These kinds of things have to take in different symbols, letters and numbers. How many and why? The answer is: "the longer, the better". The reason is that when you have a longer and more complicated password, it can hardly or never be broken. It is advisable to change your password many times a year and when you change it, you should make some questions in order to have your own security in case you forget the password. For example, "What is your grandmother's name?" As a piece of advice, do not save your password when you log on sites that cannot be trusted. The logging-out should be done being sure that you have not left any pieces of information inside those sites.

We live in the *Facebook* era. *Facebook* is the most popular site for young people. They usually use it to socialize, to make friends or to share their experiences. This is its good side. But on the other hand, people's personal information shown on the site can be used for some illegal activities like stealing information to be used afterwards e.g. to obtain their password by calling help lines or even inviting robbers to take action as a result of people's showing off. Also, the fact that young people can talk to strangers is a negative aspect of this socializing site. When uploading personal pictures, people do not think about the consequences such as being a target for pornography or other bad things. Thus, people should not give too many details about their private lives because a lot of strangers know how to take advantage of it.

The reason for the existence of social networks is that people can communicate whenever they want, without boundaries, or time limit. However, we must be careful as much as possible because while some people can mislead you, exaggerate himself/herself, take a different gender, some may be a true reflection of the self but due to the lack of physical contact, we can never be sure about that. There are many sites which enable people to date online and these networks play a very important role in the social lives of millions of people around the world. People create virtual multiple false identities in a virtual world. What we should do is that we control this virtual world not allow it to control us.

Do you feel like downloading something? We must be really careful about what we download on the net. Sometimes it is probable that we will have something much more different than we wanted to. We think we are downloading a song, a funny movie, a programme or a game, but instead of these, a hidden programme or a Trojan virus which possibly will delete or damage all the files in our computer may be downloaded. We should keep in mind that downloading music and films is illegal and punishable by law. So, what should we do? In order not to face such cases, we should have an antivirus software, update our computer, open the firewalls, etc. What can we do instead? We can watch movies on a special site which charges us less than buying the movie.

Are you into shopping spree? Internet shopping is very dangerous and you must be aware of the fact that if you shop on the Internet, you might get scammed. You should be careful when using your personal signature because someone can easily steal your identity. If you use it, for example when shopping on the Internet, make sure that the website has a certificate which you can find at the bottom of the webpage. In addition, you should always check that the website has the appropriate copyrights.

People shop on-line because they are busy and they do not want to waste time in shops. They prefer e-shopping because it is quick. Is e-shopping always safe? It depends. We have to take into consideration many things, i.e. the origin, the seller, the way of payment and other things. Firstly, we have to be sure that the company we are buying from is reliable. If we know that the company is registered, we can usually avoid being cheated. Secondly, we have to consider how to pay. We can be cheated e.g. when pay for something in advance and the seller does not send us the goods we have paid for. That is why, it is better to pay when the ordered products have come to us, not earlier. Luckily, we have some rights. When the product is fake or faulty we can send it back and they have to send us a new one or repair it.

Piracy is the illegal download of materials from the Internet and plagiarism is copying the ideas of others and using them as if they were your own. Copyrights protect our materials. It is allowed to download materials that are given free and do not have copyrights. However, copying something that is not yours and pretending it is because you want to make money on it by selling it is forbidden. The public use of copyrighted materials is also forbidden. You should not publish your own materials without copyrights because in that case everybody can use it as there is no law protecting your materials unless they are copyrighted. Examples of plagiarism can often be found in students' homework. Since we live in a computer age it should come as no surprise that we learn things on the Internet. Students really often download their homework from the web and use that material as their own because it is easier for them as it takes less time and effort than writing the homework on their own. Another important thing to bear in mind when speaking about piracy is the existence of various kinds of licences and according to that we speak of Freeware, Shareware, demo, trial, adware and so on. However, we should not forget that by buying original programs, we support the publishers and respect the copyrights.

The Internet is probably the biggest source of information. When we need information, we often search it on the Internet. Most of the time we find lots of forums with many different opinions. Should we believe it? The Internet is like a separate universe where you can find everything, good and bad. One of the most common examples are those spamming spots that appear on public sites. If they can enter your computer and it is not protected enough, they surely will damage it.

A really essential thing is the software preventing users to access some particular web pages. They are used by banks, the police, in security offices and by particular companies. They are used for security, for personal information and data base of companies. Unfortunately, a lot of companies do not invest in protection of the web pages, so that's why in some cases the information is stolen.

And have you ever thought of PC settings and anti-virus software? Well, there is a lot to think of. We are all aware of the necessity of using anti-virus software, but are we careful when using the Internet in public places? In public places you can access Wi-Fi, that is a system of accessing the internet from remote electronic devices in a wireless way. After you use Wi-Fi it is essential to turn off the connection to the Internet because someone may hack your PC or phone and steal your personal data. Therefore, you may use the Internet in public places, but you have to be careful.

All in all, there are lots of advantages of the Internet, you can find there information, you can shop online, communicate with people and so on. Nevertheless, the number of dangers connected with using the Internet is so huge, we need to be really careful to use it safely.