



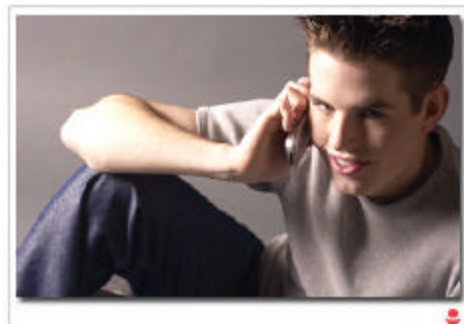
Cyber Criminals Find a New Opening via Mobile Phones

The Dangers of Mobile Phone Text Messaging

E-mail, instant messaging (IM), and mobile phones have undoubtedly changed the way we communicate. Mobile phones are also web browsers, instant messengers, and e-mail terminals, giving a mobile phone user constant access to the world around him. Likewise, the world now has access to the mobile phone user.

Many mobile phone service providers now offer IM and SMS (short messaging system) text messaging, allowing business users to respond to needs immediately regardless of time or location. Parents and children can communicate during meetings or class when a phone call is not acceptable. However, mobile phones, IM and SMS also pose a number of risks, particularly to our children. (An i-SAFE study reveals that more than a third of students grades 5-12 say that IM, chat, and e-mail are the main ways they keep in contact with their friends.)

Once a username is acquired, text messages can be sent to the recipient on his/her mobile phone/sms device. Because many children are now using sms-enabled mobile phones, it is easier for sexual predators to contact your children. Predators locate their victims by searching personal information available in IM account profiles, and then text messaging the user. IM programs also allow users to "see" when other users are



Who's on the other end of the line?

available for messaging. A mobile phone is always "on," which enables constant contact with the child—often when s/he is not under adult supervision. A child is also most likely to talk freely, reveal personal information, or arrange an in-person meeting when adults aren't around. Responding to a text message will, unless disabled, allow the caller ID feature to display the child's phone number on the recipient's phone. This gives the predator a direct line to the child. Website addresses, videos, and photos can also be sent to mobile phones. This makes exposure to inappropriate content by predators or advertisers another concern.

Mobile phones with text messaging also offer bullies and stalkers a new mode of constant contact with their victims, making it difficult for the child to escape

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i-SAFE Selects First National Student Advisory Board

i-SAFE America is proud to announce the first students selected for the new national Student Advisory Board (SAB) for 2005. This group of overachievers will go where no student has gone before. The SAB will be taking the lead in educating and empowering their fellow students across the country about online dangers and discover new ways of communicating the need for Internet safety to the teens and

youth of America. The mission of the Student Advisory Board will be to DRiVE the i-SAFE Youth Empowerment program to our nation's students with the goal of making the Internet a safer place for all.

"I'm excited to work with the new SAB," stated i-SAFE Youth Empowerment Manager Steve Godwin. "We're in uncharted territory. They are the

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Special Interest Articles

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"We've all heard that a million monkeys banging on a million typewriters will eventually reproduce the entire works of Shakespeare. Now, thanks to the Internet, we know this is not true."

—Robert Wilensky, professor of computer science, Berkeley

New i-SAFE Student Video Contest!

Ever want to direct a video? Got something to say about bullies? Here's your chance to address one of the hot issues of the Cyber Age and help make the Internet a safer place for you and your peers. [Sign up](#) for the i-SAFE "Expose the Truth: Cyber Bullying" Video Contest today!



Participants in a Vermont i-SAFE Assembly Experience.

Internet Statistic

52 percent
of students
prefer to be
alone online

Source: i-SAFE America Assessments-2003-04
i-SAFE survey of 19,000 students grades 5-8

Digital PhishNet: Trawling for Cyber Scam Artists

You've seen the e-mail. It's an official correspondence, complete with logo, from a bank (in some cases well known), directing you to update your account information via a link to the bank's website. The link takes you to a legitimate looking form asking for personal data and account and pin numbers that leads directly to a scam artist's bank account. It's called phishing. It's one of the most popular online cons, and, by some estimates, phishing bilked citizens out of over a billion dollars in 2004.

Phishing—the use of spoofed e-mails and websites to gather personal account information, which is then used to drain online accounts—is growing at a dizzying rate. According to the Anti-Phishing Work Group, in 2004 the number of active phishing websites more than doubled. The Group also estimates that up to five percent of the recipients are hooked by the increasingly sophisticated scam.

Recently, a group of Internet service providers, financial institutions, and international law enforcement agencies banded together to form Digital PhishNet,

a collaborative effort to stop phishing. The Digital PhishNet's ambitious goal: "To identify, arrest, and hold accountable, those that are involved in all levels of phishing attacks to include spammers, phishers, credit card peddlers, re-shippers and anyone involved in the further abuse of consumers' personal information."

Big hitters such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, VeriSign Inc., America Online, and Microsoft Corp., among others, are behind the effort.

It is thought that the partnership will address the shortcomings of a go-it-alone approach by either side. Law enforcement will benefit from the technical expertise of the online institutions while the institutions will be versed in the traditional methods of how to catch a thief. The international scope of the endeavor will enable Digital PhishNet to cast its net in foreign waters where criminals hide to escape U.S. prosecution.

By Eric Fairbanks
Editor

Talented Wordsmith Wins i-SAFE Student Essay Contest

Can we have a drum roll, please.... The winner of the "Word from the Streets" Essay Contest sponsored by i-SAFE and extreme pro street skater Willy Santos is...7th grader Yuki from New Jersey. To honor Yuki's effort, she has been crowned the i-SAFE Most Valuable Mentor for the month of December 2004. She also won awesome skate gear from Willy. The topic of the essay contest was to write

how the Internet has changed a hobby or sport for the better or worse. Yuki reached out to students by sharing how the Internet has changed the way she communicates with her friends and family. She discussed how instant messaging and chat rooms can have both positive and negative effects. Congratulations, Yuki! To read Yuki's winning "Word from the Streets" essay, go to www.isafe.org.

IBM Tackles the Problems of Internet Safety

On October 7, 2003, John Halligan's son Ryan committed suicide at age 13—leaving no note. This left John searching for clues as to why Ryan took his life. Through a thorough examination of Ryan's IM conversations and e-mails, John learned that other kids were bullying Ryan and encouraging him to commit suicide.

As a result of Ryan's death, John wrote to the president of IBM asking the company take on Internet safety education. IBM employees have a long history of volunteering in their communities, and through the IBM On

Demand program the company offers resources for its employees to use in their volunteer efforts.

IBM turned to i-SAFE to acquire the resources like PowerPoint® presentations, statistics, and tips so that IBM employees can go out in their community and provide Internet safety presentations to parents, teachers and community leaders. On January 6, 2005, IBM and i-SAFE launched this new program.

i-SAFE would like to thank Mr. Halligan for his leadership and courage in the fight to make the Internet a safer place.



Internet Safety

Tip of the Month

Do not provide personal information, especially account information, over the Internet unless you have confirmed the legitimacy of the business asking for the information via a phone call.

“With their guidance, the SAB and i-SAFE Youth Empowerment Campaign (DRiVE) will continue to evolve, adapt, and strive to deliver new information about cyber dangers that come with the rapid development of new technology.”

The Dangers of Mobile Phone... continued

the torment. Messages or pictures can also be forwarded to multiple users in a short period of time, making the harassment even far more widespread and damaging to the victim.

Having discovered that the Internet is a cost-effective means to advertise, marketers are finding that SMS-capable devices have expanded their marketing network. Marketers search out phone numbers and IM username profiles capable of receiving text messages and compile lists of contact numbers to use and sell to other advertisers. Mobile phone users, including our children, are now being spammed with unsolicited text messages (SMS spam), which, much like e-mail spam, often contain content inappropriate for children.

Finally, there is the issue of cost. Most mobile phone providers offer text-messaging packages for a set number of text messages each month; however, once a maximum has been reached the consumer incurs extra charges, often up to 25 cents per message. All unsolicited messages, from bullies, predators, or advertisers, could prove to be quite costly for parents.

So how can you protect your children?

1. Discuss the dangers with your kids and



You pay for spam text messages.

- set rules for mobile phone and IM use.
2. Ensure that no personal information is revealed in the IM profile and your child can only receive messages from users on his/her buddy list.
3. Enable caller id blocking on your mobile phones, and contact your mobile phone carrier if you are receiving unsolicited SMS spam or calls.

To limit unsolicited telemarketing calls, place your number on the National “Do Not Call” registry. Visit <http://www.ftc.gov/donotcall/> or call 1-888-382-1222 (TTY 1-866-290-4236), from the number you wish to register.

**By Lisa Cunningham
i-SAFE Youth Empowerment**

First SAB Board... continued

groundbreakers of the program. The creative ideas that come from these students will be used to not only establish the functions of the SAB but will be put into action to change our future safety on the Internet.”

With a combined average GPA of 3.5, the talented and active SAB members will be a direct link to what is going on in the lives of the students living in the cyber world. With their guidance, the SAB and i-SAFE Youth Empowerment Campaign (DRiVE) will continue to evolve, adapt, and strive to deliver new information about cyber dangers that come with the rapid development of new technology. Initially, SAB involvement will consist of monthly board chat meetings, student think-tank sessions, and mentor activities. Only the students know how far they can take it.

Congratulations and thank you to all of the students that submitted applications.

Here are your 2005 i-SAFE Student Advisory Board members:

**Alex Carpenter, 10th Grade, Louisiana
Alexandra Costa, 11th Grade, Rhode Island
Andrew Snyder, 12th Grade, Kentucky
Cara Gasaway, 12th Grade, Arkansas
Calvin Swenson, 12th Grade, Wisconsin
Destiny Neely, 10th Grade, California
Katie Giesick, 11th Grade, California
Heather Clendening, 10th Grade, Kentucky
Moni Sallam, 8th Grade, Maryland
Nicole Morgan, 10th Grade, Florida
Roberta Davidson, 9th Grade, West Virginia
Stephanie Weeks, 10th Grade, Michigan
Trevor Marsh, 11th Grade, Kentucky
Trevor Whitlock, 10th Grade, Utah**

News Flash!**Video Voyeurism Act Signed into Law**

Cell phone camera voyeurs were dealt a blow when President Bush recently signed into law the Video Voyeurism Prevention Act of 2004. Written to protect the privacy of citizens in federal jurisdictions, the Act promises a fine or imprisonment to anyone who "captures an image of a private area of an individual without their consent." The Act had sailed through Congress unopposed. Increasing Peeping Tom incidences involving cameraphones and hidden cameras prompted the legislation.

**We welcome your input!**

If you would like to submit an article for the newsletter or tell us your story, please contact us at:

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Suite # 309
Carlsbad, CA 92008
(760) 603-7911
Editor@isafe.org



We're on the Web! See us at:

www.isafe.org

i-SAFE AMERICA

Educator's Corner: Attending An i-SAFE Event

If you are hosting or attending a PDP, the attendance process has changed! Thank you for your cooperation in this transition. Please contact us at education@isafe.org with your questions.

All attendees should register online:

1. Register first on our website, www.isafe.org.
2. Select *Calendar of Events* under *Quick Links* on the homepage.
3. Scroll to find the desired PDP.
4. Register/sign up for the event by selecting days away. (If event is *invite only*, an event number from the facilitator is required.)

Participation in this online registration ensures all attendees have immediate certification and access to program materials. Facilitators only may view the attendee list by clicking their link at the top of the Calendar of Events page.

The online registration is open until midnight the day following the event. If using your own registration system, contact us so we may import your data. Paper attendance forms may be used as a last resort.

i-SAFE Resources

Educators! If you are interested in bringing the i-SAFE Curriculum to your school, contact us at education@isafe.org or call us at (760) 603-7911.

Parents and Community Leaders! If you are interested in bringing the i-SAFE program to your community, contact us at outreach@isafe.org or call us at (760) 603-7911.

Students! If you are interested in becoming an i-SAFE Student Mentor, contact us at mentors@isafe.org or call us at (760) 603-7911.

Interested in attending an i-SAFE event? Click [here](#) for a full calendar of events coming to a location near you soon!

About Our Organization...

MISSION: i-SAFE is a non-profit foundation whose mission is to educate and empower youth to safely and responsibly take control of their Internet experience.

GOAL: The i-SAFE program provides students with the awareness and knowledge they need in order to recognize and avoid dangerous, destructive, or unlawful online behavior and to respond appropriately.

i-SAFE is dedicated to: 1) implementing a standardized Internet safety education program throughout the nation that provides kids and teens with essential tools to reduce the risk of their being victimized while engaged in activities via the Internet; and 2) launching an Outreach Campaign that empowers students to take control of their online experiences and make educated, informed, and knowledgeable decisions as they actively engage in cyber activities.

A Special Thanks from The i-SAFE Times Staff

Kevin Storr, Editor-in-Chief; Eric Fairbanks, Editor; Bronwen Matthews, Editor at Large; Teri Schroeder, i-SAFE President; Jonathan King, Outreach Director; Lee Taylor, Education Director; Paul Olson, Graphic Design, and contributing writers: Lisa Cunningham, Kent Gates, Steve Godwin.