

Title of Session: Cyberethics, Cybersafety, Cybersecurity

Moderator: Davina Pruitt-Mentle

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DavinaP: Well lets go ahead and get started first Stephanie where are you from and tell me your interest in C3

StephanGst2: I'm from Vancouver Canada. I used to teach and now have a small technology.

DavinaP: tech company? what type of technology? is it for the educational community?

StephanGst2: We work on small web based applications that allow people to make rich media content (interactive stuff) easily, while keeping the information in an open format so it can be reused. My background is in education and the educational community seems to like what we do so I think that will be our long term focus.

DavinaP: I am from the University of Maryland and have a variety of initiatives (course, workshops, NSF grants etc... directed towards this topic and like to share as well as hear what others have to say about C3

StephanGst2: Hi Davina, nice to meet you.

DavinaP: Each Monday (usually the first Monday of the month) this month we switched due to New years--we have a topic...today I was going to bring up....

DavinaP: Last week I received a message related to concern over students (as earlier as Middle school) utilizing Myspace.com I wanted to use this as a springboard for conversation about the pros and cons of such webspace and what students do with it...

DavinaP: Here's what I'd like to discuss tonight...

DavinaP: Last week I received a message related to concern over students (as earlier as Middle school) utilizing Myspace.com I wanted to use this as a springboard for conversation about the pros and cons of such webspace and what students do with it

DavinaP: Does everyone know what MySpace.com is? or do you need a minute to hop into it with another window?

DavidWe knows

StephaniMR: Yep

BJ knows it is a HOT issue as far as safety goes

DavinaP: so share your thoughts

DavidWe: I tend to side on the side of guided indulgence - encourage students to do the right thing - don't make something attractive by making it forbidden

DavinaP: Ok..so what or how would you "guide" these students

DavidWe: Well, what's the goal, Davina?

DavidWe: Encouraging students to use the web?

BJ: apparently kids are posting rather personal information in myspace

DavidWe: About themselves or others?

DavinaP: teachers are asking for guidance as to what to do about kids entering materials on the space...what would be some general guidelines besides "don't do it" which is what teachers and parents want to hear but won't happen

BJ: about themselves

DavinaP: Stephanie what do you think?

DavinaP: about themselves to start but then we can move on to others

DavidWe: Is it illegal or immoral to do what they are doing?

StephaniMR: The difficulty with the virtual space is that it's very easy to start conversations (like this one) without really knowing who you're talking to. That said, this type of interaction is never going to go away (email is a similar example that had some etiquette issues in its early days and has security issues to this day regarding spam.) So encouraging students not to use this type of communication will actually leave them unable to deal with this new kind of interaction in the future.

DavidWe: Don't we encourage young children to be careful about talking to strangers?

StephaniMR: I think it's just an extension of the "don't talk to strangers" analogy but with slightly different parameters.

DavidWe smiles

DavinaP: first am rights no...illegal sometimes when they are posting incorrect information (wrong age for one...which is amazing how they then go back and correct

themselves when one of their friends catches it...also the discussion teachers could be used as legal as well (if someone wanted to press it)

DavidWe: My feeling, for the past 13 years of working with schools, teachers and the Internet is that there are real life analogies to almost all of these "issues" - it's happened before in real life

CaroleMc joined the room.

DavinaP: So again if we were to make a PowerPoint or other multi-media presentation for this student assembly and or parent group what would a few bullets be that students should remember?

DavinaP: Hi Carole

CaroleMc: Hello, so sorry to interrupt. Troubles with chat room loading.

DavinaP: Carole we are discussing the pros and cons to students using space like Myspace.com and are thinking about what teachers and parents should recommend to students who decide to engage in this format

CaroleMc: thank you for the update. Let me consider the question too.

StephaniMR: One guideline that could help is "talk to your friends" By that I mean that 'friends of a friend' are often people you trust more easily in real life. The same can apply online (and often does in the business world.)

DavinaP: Ah so perhaps recommend to students that they should set up the account so that only "friends" can access the information or chat ability?

DavidWe: It's a balancing act, right?

DavidWe: How do we help young people learn that the world CAN be a dangerous place, sometimes

DavidWe: And help them develop their judgment about it

DavidWe: But they need to experience it, in some form, right?

CaroleMc: Yes indeed, it is important to be cautious, but it is also important to encourage young students to explore and become selective of their sites and downloads. They need to learn discretion!

DavidWe nods in agreement

DavinaP: My thoughts would be ...if you were setting up a website about yourself ...I might want folks to know that you like basketball and horses but I am now sure I would tell where I lived, my measurements

DavinaP: so if we were to list some items NOT to include (or if you prefer recommend against including) what would these be? and what "selective" items would be OK

StephaniMR: Your address and phone number and anything to do with your daily schedule should be avoided I think.

BJ . o O (did you discuss photos?)

DavinaP: what do we think about email address?

DavinaP: and what about photos?

CaroleMc: Include: generic information (geographic/time zone, likes and dislikes, some relevant experiences) but avoid specific information (actual location, finances, preferences)

CaroleMc: It is good to be selective with both email and photos depending on where the website is located. If in a protected zone then provide these, if not, hide them.

DavinaP: preferences is interesting as MANY of the young ladies seem to indicate their preferences for men (Latino type etc...) I am wondering what this does?

CaroleMc: If preferences are included it sets up some expectations on the part of the visitor.

DavinaP: seems like EVERYONE wants to put their photo up right smack on the front page

DavidWe: I think some kids are going to be exhibitionists. Our culture encourages it

DavinaP: Carol re: preferences ...I would think so but it seems that many do not grasp this ...this would be a good "teachable moment" or topic to discuss with students when you see this what does this mean to you

CaroleMc: a photo gives a personal touch and is often more inviting to visitors and creates a friendly environment - photos can of course be other than portraits.

DavinaP: David I believe so also

DavidWe: Excuse me for asking, but who got upset (if they did get upset) at the students putting information up on MySpace.com?

DavinaP: Stephanie is from Canada...is this utilized in Canada as much as in the US or is there another site? Carole where are you from?

CaroleMc: Recently there was an interesting 'story' of a young female who displayed photos (inappropriate pictures of herself) in her blog. This was not deemed to be good practice. (I'm in Australia)

DavinaP: Parents from the school in Baltimore MD and wanted to have a PTA assembly about it or how to help parents understand more of the pros and cons

DavidWe nods

StephaniMR: I'm not sure about Canada. MySpace is a bit of an odd spot because from what I understand, the creators never anticipated that their biggest audience would be kids. Some of the features might not have been included if that had been the target.

DavidWe: Are you doing the presentation, Davina?

DavinaP: No, I was contacted for information I set them up with my contacts from iSAFE and NetSmartz and Judicial Programs

CaroleMc: I wonder what age bracket are attracted to this site Myspace.com, Stephanie when you say

CaroleMc: kids

DavinaP: but this got me thinking more about how to direct the energy ...I can say what iSafe and Netsmartz and other curriculum will say tell kids not to do it.....

BJ: there are pretty well laid out guidelines for myspace use, but I doubt that many of the users read them

StephaniMR: I don't know. I've always heard it was kids but I think it's more "tweens." (http://www.businessweek.com/mediacenter/podcasts/cover_stories/covercast_12_01_05.htm interview about MySpace if anyone's interested.)

DavinaP: however, I know what will happen and therefore, how can we make lemonade out of lemons how can we take something that kids are doing and make it more productive and safe

CaroleMc: This is an excellent question, and one that has huge impact on our Australian students as they are being encouraged to 'publish' their eportfolios. In some software 'templates' are provided to teach how to make their eportfolio details effective, but I have not yet seen anything that instructs on how to keep them SAFE.

DavinaP: so no address phone contact info ...pref...be selective in what you put will determine ways in which your preferences are inferred and be selective in photos or at least in the background etc... that you also choose (or perhaps make that for "friends" eyes only...anything else?

DavinaP: Carole, safe as in people "taking" their content or safe as in folks viewing and gathering information about the person?

CaroleMc: Yes, in the case of 'files' avoid publishing those you do not want copied. SAFE as in ensuring that they avoid inviting those who would exploit.

DavinaP: I can only share what we tell students at the University --house it within an online management system and give access to only those you want to see

DavidWe nods

StephaniMR: A side question if I can. As educators, would you want the tech community to play a greater role in providing safety or privacy information and resources for kids. Or is this something you feel educators and parents should be (exclusively) responsible for?

DavinaP: well, I am not sure what isafe or Netsmartz folks will tell this group (although I can guess) but I do think this will be an interesting topic to see play out--of course it could also be like blogs and fizzle out some ...

CaroleMc: I believe that this should be a collaborative effort involving the young people, the educators, the parents and the community sites as well. The eportfolio for all policy in Wales is a good example of such collaboration.

DavinaP: it would be interesting to have a student product of doable content vs. Not what to do to show to students and parents

DavinaP: what is the eport like in Wales (sorry off topic but I am interested)

CaroleMc: Davina, I'm not sure what technical issues are involved but I have heard recently that their impact has been huge and inclusive.

BJ: Before time runs out, a reminder that this group meets again on February 6 at the same time

StephaniMR: I'm interested too if anyone has a link.

CaroleMc: let me see if I can see one...

DavidWe: Thanks for leading the discussion, Davina. Good luck with the PTA

StephaniMR: Yes, thanks!

DavinaP: Thanks David although I will not be doing the PTA but I would be interested in attending to see what isafe and others have to say

DavidWe nods

CaroleMc: this one may lead somewhere...
<http://electronicportfolios.org/reflect/index.html>

CaroleMc: thanks for the discussion today folks, enjoyed participating.

DavinaP: Thanks Carole

DavinaP: Again thanks for a wonderful International insight into this issue and I hope to hear more after we have all digested it a little more...perhaps next month

DavinaP: until then bye bye