

Search the Web:

**The Internet is a great tool and cruising through cyberspace can be a lot of fun!** Instant Messaging, blogging, e-mail, web pages...there are lots of things to see and do on-line. [Using the Internet safely is easy when you think smart.](#) Using these tips and your common sense will help keep you safe on-line. Tell your parents about anything strange or unusual that happens while you are using the computer.

## Personal Identification

**Do you know who's visiting your web site?** Criminals use the Internet to identify their targets. They collect their information from more than one source, so the more sites you enter personal information on, the easier it is for predators to find you. Blogs and personal web pages are a great place to post your opinions and experiences but often contain too much information about you.

**Tip:** Whether you're designing your own site or visiting someone else's, remember to never post or give out

- photos of yourself
- your home address or telephone number
- information about the school you attend

## Chat Rooms / Instant Messaging

Keeping in touch with your friends is important and IMing/chatrooms let you do that without tying up the phone. It is important to remember though that predators regularly monitor open chatrooms on Yahoo, ICQ and other chat programs. If you find yourself talking to strangers on the Internet, you are at risk. **Remember, anyone can pretend to be someone else on-line!**

### Tips:

- Always know who you are talking to
- Don't chat or talk with strangers
- Never agree to meet a stranger you've met on-line or give them your address/phone number
- Report all unusual or uncomfortable events to your parents

## Web Cams

**Your Web Cam may be providing more information about you than you know!**

Predators often collect photos of children to share with other predators. These photos can spread quickly over the Internet and items in your room may even provide clues about who you are and where you live.

**Tip:** Never send photos of yourself to people you do not know.

## File Sharing

**Many students use Kazaa, Morpheus and other programs to share files and music.** You can receive some nasty viruses and trojans from other users and may lose control of or damage your computer because of this.

**Tip:** To avoid this, do not accept files from people you do not know.

## Email

Email messages can also have viruses so it is important to protect your computer by keeping an antivirus program running – don't forget to update it regularly!

**Tip:** When checking your mail, scan the from line and don't open or respond to emails from people you don't know.

## Net Lingo

**Beta** – This is a test version, usually of software, made available to people. It's not the final product but helps people who use it to see if they might like to buy it when the final version is released.

**Blog** – A Blog is a Web journal or diary. Bloggers share information, opinions and ideas usually on topics important to them. They can be updated daily, weekly or monthly.

**Data Mining** – This is done by software that collects information on a subject or person from all over the Internet. You could be targeted with spam using data mining by a company who thinks you might want to buy their product or predators could use this to collect personal information about you.

**Emoticons** – These symbols are used as a short cut to express feelings. Some are made with a combination of keyboard letters and symbols or you can download small cartoon faces with different expressions. Happy :) Sad :( Surprised :O Sticking out your tongue :p

**IM** – Instant Messaging is software that lets you chat with friends on-line. You can type a message and your friend receives it on his or her screen as soon as you press the return button.

**Netiquette** – This is a term that describes the etiquette used on the Internet. Being polite on-line is as important as in person.

**SPAM** – This is the Internet version of "junk mail". It's e-mail sent to you without your consent, usually advertising a product or website.

**A site like [www.NetLingo.com](http://www.NetLingo.com) can provide you with meanings for a long list of Internet words.**