

# Social Networking and the Internet: The GOOD, the BAD and the DOWNSIDE DANGEROUS

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SCANEX

# What is Dangerous and what is not?

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# Factors of Safety for Youth on the Internet:

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- IQ
  - Emotional IQ
  - Location and surroundings
  - Past Internet exposure and usage
  - Mental Health
  - Sexual Issues
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# Safety Factors

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- ❑ IQ
  - ❑ Emotional IQ
  - ❑ Perceiving emotions — the ability to detect and decipher emotions in faces, pictures, voices, and [cultural artifacts](#)- including the ability to identify one's own emotions. Perceiving emotions represents a basic aspect of emotional intelligence, as it makes all other processing of emotional information possible.
  - ❑ Using emotions — the ability to harness emotions to facilitate various cognitive activities, such as thinking and problem solving. The emotionally intelligent person can capitalize fully upon his or her changing [moods](#) in order to best fit the task at hand.
  - ❑ Understanding emotions — the ability to comprehend emotion language and to appreciate complicated relationships among emotions. For example, understanding emotions encompasses the ability to be sensitive to slight variations between emotions, and the ability to recognize and describe how emotions evolve over time.
  - ❑ Managing emotions — the ability to regulate emotions in both ourselves and in others. Therefore, the emotionally intelligent person can harness emotions, even negative ones, and manage them to achieve intended goals.
  - ❑ (Thanks Wikipedia)
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# Safety Factors

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- Location – Where is the youth? What is socially acceptable in that area? Ability to come and go as they want? Dating and socializing encouraged?
  - Surroundings – Does youth have their own laptop? Chatting often and privately? Where is the computer located in the house?
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# Safety Factors

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- ❑ Past Internet Exposure and Usage – Most students have been using the Internet for the past 5 or 6 years. They have had training at school and sometimes in the home. For students with less training and supervision – the internet is a wide open range of danger.
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# Mental Health Issues and Sexual Issues

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- ❑ For youth with mental health issues – the internet and social networks can help them reach out and find others who are going through the same things as them or it can help them hook up with those who will exploit their pain and lead them to more issues. The internet has no supervision like therapists can put into place. Internet can be filled with strange and bizarre 'facts' about mental illness and literally harm the youth more than anything else.
  - ❑ Sexual Issues such as youth who have sexual offended or have been sexually abused in the past are the highest risk of reoffending or being offend through internet and social networks. Predators and sex offenders can easily access these youth through thousands of different venues on the Internet. The porn available to youth who have offended is easily available and sometimes even free.
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# What Dangers are REALLY out there?

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- ❑ **Predators –**
  - ❑ Currently, there are over 644,865 Registered Sex Offenders in the United States; an estimated 10,000 have been lost in the system (National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, 2008).
  - ❑ **The predominant sex crime scenario doesn't involve violence or stranger molesters posing online as children; only 5 percent of offenders concealed the fact they were adults from their victims. Almost 80 percent of offenders were explicit about their intentions with youth. In 73 percent of crimes, youth go to meet the offender on multiple occasions for multiple sexual encounters (NJOV Study, 2007).**
  - ❑ **Teens are willing to meet with strangers: 16 percent of teens considered meeting someone they've only talked to online and 8 percent have actually met someone they only knew online (Online Victimization of Youth: Five Years Later. 2006).**
  - ❑ Four percent of all youth Internet users received aggressive sexual solicitations, which threatened to spill over into "real life". These solicitors asked to meet the youth in person, called them on the telephone, or sent offline mail, money, or gifts. Also 4 percent of youth Internet users had distressing sexual solicitations that left them feeling upset or extremely afraid (Online Victimization of Youth: Five Years Later, 2006).
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# What dangers are REALLY out there?

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- ❑ Sex trade and trafficking
- ❑ "Each year an estimated 800,000 to 900,000 human beings are bought, sold, or forced across the world's borders [2003 U.S. State Department estimate]. Among them are hundreds of thousands of teenage girls, and others as young as 5, who fall victim to the sex trade.

There's a special evil in the abuse and exploitation of the most innocent and vulnerable. The victims of [the] sex trade see little of life before they see the very worst of life, an underground of brutality and lonely fear. Those who create these victims and profit from their suffering must be severely punished. Those who patronize this industry debase themselves and deepen the misery of others."

*- Former President Bush, addressing the U.N. General Assembly, September 23, 2003*

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# Porn

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- ❑ Youth are accessing porn and sometimes it is not leaving trails that are easy to find.
  - ❑ Youth sites now carry links to porn and within one click – access to porn
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# Where do youth access others?

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- ❑ Social Networks – are people coming together from different parts of the world to communicate, chat, date and have 'relationships.'
  - ❑ Dating sites- exactly how it sounds. Youth go through to find other people to date, chat and have relationships with.
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# Where do youth access others?

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- ❑ Virtual Communities - A **virtual community** is a social network of individuals who interact through specific media, potentially crossing geographical and political boundaries in order to pursue mutual interests or goals. AKA – they build their second worlds and they live in it through avatars and literal computer worlds. Sometimes these worlds include games, marriages, cyber sexual 'relationships.'
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# Well lets go take a look at the DANGER ZONE

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- Where would you guys like to go look?
  - What would you like to see?
  - Where do you think that our youth may be going?
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# So How do WE protect our Youth in our District? Can we ?

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- Through agreements and policies with youth
  - Training
  - Understanding your social network is YOU
  - Random Checks – how do you feel about it?
  - Understanding PUBLIC information
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# Discussion

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- Questions?
  - Concerns?
  - Fears?
  - Overwhelmed?
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# Contact Information

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