

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY & INFORMATION



DTI eSecurity News — Cyber Safety at Home

Kids, Parents and Tech Safety

Most U.S. tweens (10 to 12 year-olds) have at least one social media account, and many go online without any supervision from their parents, according to a survey release by online security company McAfee.

"Younger and younger kids are going out there really unsupervised," said Michelle Dennedy of McAfee, which commissioned the poll of 1,173 young people aged 10 to 23 years old and 1,301 parents. Facebook and Instagram are the most popular platform among tweens. Although the site says users must be at least 13 years old to log on, 85% of tweens said they have an account, and a similar number admit they use it every day.

The threats to children using the Internet unsupervised are well known and range from identity theft, cyberbullying, sharing photos and videos to pornography and predators. Despite the dangers, 82% of preteens say they think social media sites are very safe, or somewhat safe, and 79% of parents agree. Nearly half of youngsters also report sharing personal information online such as their email address, and 28% have revealed the school they attend.

Many parents are overwhelmed by the onslaught of technology available to their children and feel like they can't keep up with their tech-savvy children. More than 80% of the parents of teens say they don't have the time or energy to keep up with everything their children do online. Only 9% say they know how to find out what their children are doing online.

Children are skilled in hiding their online activity from their parents. More than half of tweens, 58%, say they know how to keep their online use a secret, and a quarter admitted they had cleared or hidden what they have done online.



A Cyber Safe Home

One of the keys to promoting a cyber savvy family is to talk, talk and talk some more. Open communication between all family members is far more important than downloading the latest parental spyware or regulating online time with military precision.

Research devices before you bring them home. Know if a tablet or game has a webcam or if a gaming system can be connected to the Internet. Learn how to

disable or remove problematic apps based on the ages of the users.

Make it clear that all tech devices are family property and can be used/viewed by adult family members at any time.

Keep an eye on the family's social media sites, but don't go overboard. Parents should refrain from posting on children's sites, but knowing passwords is always a good idea. Set aside family time to go online together...play a game, explore a craft site, read a book together, have fun.

Tips

Cyber safe adults treat online time as a reality in today's world but set guidelines for their families. They are the best defense in the digital world. Here are a few helpful tips:

- Lead by example, no one brings their phone to dinner or family time.
- Get to know your children's online friends as you would their neighborhood friends.
- Teach your family not to post personal information, and make sure you don't do the same. Social media photos and posts while on vacation are fun, but allow many to know that you are not home.

For more information on family cyber safety, please go to: <http://dti.delaware.gov/information/cybersecurity.shtml>.

Visit the [eSecurity](#) Extranet website for previous issues of
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