



## A Note from our Chief Security Officer

Welcome to DigiKnow's mid-summer newsletter, a new format with a fresher, more modern look. We've devoted most of this issue to online summer safety and education for children, hoping to help foster social media etiquette in an effort to protect children while they enjoy their time online.

In addition, I want to caution everyone about protecting your personal identities at all times. Everyone should maintain a practice of reviewing where and how you use your identity: social media, email, LinkedIn ... to name a few.

DTI continues to deliver on a network-wide identity strategy and new Single Sign-On solution. This Delaware Identity System is a required front-end to Delaware's digital government plans. When fully implemented, state workers will simply log in at [ID.Delaware.gov](http://ID.Delaware.gov) for identity validation and secure access to state systems and applications from any device, anytime, anywhere.

As we harden our network's security, we need you to do the same. All apps come with various security features and we need you to use them on all of your devices. Security features like multi-factor authentication, password change notifications, and complex passwords/passphrases all protect you and your family from identity theft.

We've all been online more than ever in 2020, let's do what we can to protect our personal information and that of our clients, customers, and colleagues.

With Best Wishes for a safe summer,

Solomon Adote

## Online Summer Fun

We can all agree that Summer 2020 is not the summer we anticipated. As we slowly emerge into our communities with safety and caution at the forefront, most of us will be staying close to home. For many families, this means parents continuing to work remotely while trying to entertain children with a combination of outdoor and online activities.

Children are ready to have fun online and parents are ready to be relieved of the daily schedule of online classes and supplemental home school responsibilities. Virtual summer camps and cleverly constructed learning sites can help provide quiet indoor activities when the weather does not permit otherwise.

Below are suggestions for apps, websites and virtual summer camps for children of varying ages and interests. Before allowing your children to download an app, watch a movie or play a game, check <https://www.common Sense Media.org>. This site has hundreds, perhaps thousands, of digital media reviews. It also features extensive resources for educators and parents.

**Code Ninjas Virtual Camps** - transform your child's love of technology into an exciting learning adventure. Guided by our team of Code Senseis, Code Ninja camps empower children to gain valuable tech skills and make new friends. It is an unforgettably fun experience! (Fees for camps, local franchise is based in Hockessin) [Request Camp Information](#) for pricing.

**iD Tech** - offers structured virtual tech summer camps for children ages 7 to 19 to learn about various tech skills including Python, Java, Minecraft, Roblox, Unity, Adobe, 3D Modeling, and more. With a cap of 5 campers per instructor, children will get individualized attention. If you have a tech savvy older child at home, then iD Tech's virtual classes may be right up his/her alley. These classes, geared towards children 7 and up, teach computer animation, app building and your child can even learn how to design for Minecraft! [Request Camp Information](#) for pricing.

**Microsoft Virtual Summer Camps** - make good use of free time with Summer Passport for Digital Fun: a series of interactive workshops for children. Your children will be so busy having fun, they won't even realize they are building valuable digital skills. Free. [Request Information](#).

**Outschool** - offers a variety of virtual summer camp activities for children and teens who have a range of interests including Connected Camps, Bay Area Children's Theater, Sweet or Savory: Summer Cooking & Baking, Pretzel Kids Yoga, Disney Sing Along Story Time Camp, Young Politicians Camp and Young Art Lessons ... to name a few!

**Midlands Technical College, (MTC) Columbia, South Carolina** - virtual STEM summer camps for children. The programs - offered in partnership with Black Rocket Productions - are fun, collaborative, and educational. Designed for ages 8-14. All courses are 5 day sessions from 9:30 am -12:30 pm or 1:30 pm -4:30 pm. Cost is \$159 To register or for more information, call (803) 732-0432 or email [CCE@midlandstech.edu](mailto:CCE@midlandstech.edu)

## What Parents Should Know About the Apps Children Love



Parents struggle to keep up with their children's ever-changing online interests. It can be a challenge to supervise your child every moment he/she is online. Being aware of potential shortfalls in privacy and security can be helpful in deciding which apps are appropriate for your child based on age and maturity level.

[Common Sense Media](#) reviews and rates app appropriateness for children as well as provides parents' reviews of actual experiences involving their child's use. This month we are highlighting parents' take on three very popular apps.

### TikTok

A lively social network built around creating, sharing, and searching for user-created music videos. Users can upload videos of themselves singing, lip syncing, dancing, or performing some kind of stunt often to a soundtrack of the top hits in music. Ongoing challenges spur users to create content related to a particular theme. Users can also integrate their own videos with others with the "duet" feature. Users under age 13 can enter their date of birth to access a separate area that only allows them to watch curated videos with no ability to post, comment, or search.

#### Cautions:

- Teens should adjust privacy settings before using. Parents should make sure the settings are age and maturity level appropriate.
- Being centered around popular music and lyrics, swearing and sexual references are present. There are reports of explicit sexual content and content referencing self-harm.
- The Restricted Mode helps but does not totally prevent children from finding inappropriate content.
- Privacy and safety settings are still imperfect; users can't delete accounts themselves, and if accounts are not made private from the start, children could attract and retain unwanted followers.
- The section of the app intended for users under age 13 can be easily circumvented by entering an alternative date of birth.

### Snapchat

A photo messaging app that allows users to send pictures, texts, or videos that disappear once viewed by the recipient. Users can add friends from their address book, Facebook friends list or enter the specific username. Snapchat allows users to share temporary photos, videos or messages known as "snaps". Videos can last anywhere from one to ten seconds. Trading snaps over a period of days puts users into a "snapstreak". Video and audio calling capability with option to include short video "notes" in the chat. Every day, content is loaded from 12 outlets in the "discover" area for users to view, using the swipe feature to view the content in its entirety or move on.

#### Cautions:

- Site not recommended for children under 16
- Lack of moderation could lead to teens adding people to their contact list that they do not know
- Due to the temporary nature of messages, users may be encouraged to share pictures containing inappropriate, sexual, or violent content
- Snapchat admits that up to 25% of its users may send sensitive content on a regular basis "experimentally".
- Inability for parents to monitor as snaps are deleted quickly
- End to end encryption is not guaranteed - images and videos COULD be intercepted by a third party
- Cyberbullying is also a risk while using this app
- Keeping "snapstreaks" going can tie users to their device for days
- Sleep deprivation and poor sleep quality has also been linked to social media use

### Messenger Kids

A parent controlled messaging and video app for children. Approving all contacts in a kid-safe messaging app sounds appealing, but there is more to consider. Messenger Kids has all the fun features that teens can't wait to use: live photo filters like Snapchat, video chatting, GIFs, and more. Since parents must approve and add all contacts, there is a low risk for chatting with strangers or encountering inappropriate content. There is a brief introduction "activity", using simple language to review how data is shared. With a few reminders to be kind, think before you post, and know how to block people, Messenger Kids will assist with getting children ready for teen social media use.

#### Cautions:

- Children and their contacts can take pictures of anything, download photos and videos to their camera roll to view and/or share. Parents cannot be guaranteed that everything shared will be child appropriate.
- Facebook policy is to collect and store the content of messages sent by children while monitoring their app usage. However, there is concern around what happens to the collected data and the security of it.
- Children are still subject to cyber bullying within their approved contacts.
- In 2019, a flaw in the app (now corrected) allowed children to join chat groups with unapproved people.
- Look out for someone posing as a child's friend, trying to gain access
- Chat that includes a group contact but they will not be able to communicate one on one.

Questions, Comments or Topic Suggestions? Email us at [eSecurity@delaware.gov](mailto:eSecurity@delaware.gov)

