



Cyber Security Month

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**LIFELONG
LEARNING
STARTS
HERE**



October is...

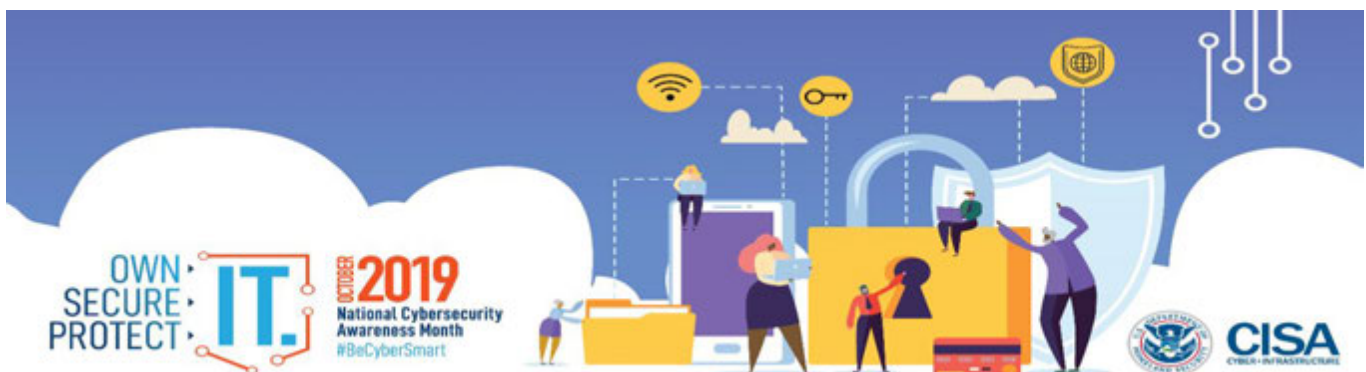
National Cybersecurity Awareness Month (NCSAM)

Held every October, National Cybersecurity Awareness Month (NCSAM) is a collaborative effort between government and industry to raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity and to ensure that all Americans have the resources they need to be safer and more secure online.



The 2019 NCSAM Theme is...

- **Own IT**
 - **Never Click and Tell: staying safe on social media**
 - **Update Privacy Settings**
 - **Keep Tabs on Your Apps: best practices for device applications**
- **Secure IT**
 - **Shake Up Your Passphrase Protocol: create strong, unique passphrases**
 - **Double Your Login Protection: turn on multi-factor authentication**
 - **Shop Safe Online**
 - **Play Hard to Get with Strangers: how to spot and avoid phish**
- **Protect IT**
 - **If You Connect, You Must Protect: updating to the latest security software, web browser and operating systems**
 - **Stay Protected While Connected: Wi-Fi safety**
 - **If You Collect It, Protect It: keeping customer/consumer data and information safe**



October is...

National Bullying Prevention Month

Every October, schools and organizations across the country join STOMP Out Bullying™ in observing National Bullying Prevention Month. The goal: encourage schools, communities and organizations to work together to stop bullying and cyberbullying and put an end to hatred and racism by increasing awareness of the prevalence and impact of all forms of bullying on all children of all ages.

Monday, October 7th 2019

Anti-bullying activities include STOMP Out Bullying™'s signature campaign World Day of Bullying Prevention™ on the first Monday of every October -- this year on Monday, October 7th. Watch for our public service announcements by featured celebrities!

This is your chance to make bullying prevention heard around the world!

You can begin to change the culture by putting an end to Bullying and Cyberbullying!

The Week of October 7th

Make friends with someone you don't know at school

If you've ever been isolated from others at school or you were new at school and it took time to make friends, you know what it feels like to be left out. Or even if you were never isolated, imagine how it would feel.

Make friends with someone at school who you don't know. You probably wish someone had done that for you.

Be a leader. Take action and don't let anyone at school be in isolation.

Challenge Others To Be Kind

Make kindness go viral with an act of kindness and challenge friends and classmates to pay it forward with their acts of kindness. Make a video of everyone doing acts of kindness and submit it. We'll add it to our website.

The Week of October 14th

STAND UP for Others Week

When you see someone being bullied, be brave and STAND UP for them. Bullies have been known to back off when others stand up for victims.

If you don't feel safe get the help of an adult immediately. Be part of the solution -- not the problem!

It's a time to see everyone's differences and celebrate their similarities: Whether students are LGBT, African American, Asian, Muslim, AAPI, of Tribal descent or disabled ...make friends.

Students can participate by

- Creating positive messages on post-its and handing them out to students at school
- Hold a "kindness" dance at school
- Creating anti-bullying videos and sharing them on the STOMP Out Bullying site
- Sharing inspirational stories on the STOMP Out Bullying site
- Create a kindness dance flash mob at school or in your community. Make a video of it and send it to us. We'll share it on our website.

The Week of October 21st

Week of Inclusion

- Don't let anyone at school eat alone in the cafeteria or on a school field trip. Make it the week of #NOONEEATSALONE
- Include other students in school activities
- Include other students in after school activities
- Invite someone you don't know that well to sit next to you on the bus. Learn about each other.
- At one point or another each of us has felt insecure, or stressed out, or alone. It is important to remind our friends and classmates that we are all in it together and we are there to listen and support each other. Use the hashtag **#HereForYou** on social media to let your classmates know that they have your support and a person to reach out to if they ever need to talk.

The Week of October 28th

Start the Week with Conversations Amongst Your Peers

- Meet with fellow students and discuss how you can Change the Culture at your school.
- Use our Student Participation Toolkit to begin conversations on how your school can be judgement and bully free.
- Hold a discussion in your classroom where you allow students to openly speak and discuss their experiences with bullying and cyberbullying, and how these experiences have affected them and how they dealt with these moments.

This is your month to take leadership at your school and carry it through all-year-round!

We look forward to hearing about your student led activities during National Bullying Prevention Awareness month.

The more awareness that is created during the month of October -- and all year round, you are one step closer to putting an end to bullying!

Source: Stompoutbullying.org

October is...

App Awareness Month



Top 20+ apps parents need to know about

Potentially Dangerous and sometimes Popular apps teens and pre-teens are using and what you need to know.

social media apps are just the beginning. Of course, it's nearly impossible to keep up with every hot new app, which makes knowing

the risky features -- like interaction with strangers, anonymity, privacy concerns, and iffy content -- a solid first step. But it's still important to know the specifics of what's on your kid's device and whether or not you'll allow it to stay there.

Check out the titles below so you have a sense of what your kid -- or your kid's friends -- may be using and what you need to know about each app. And since all of these are free, be aware that the developers make money on them through in-app purchases, ads, selling user data, or all of the above!

BIGO LIVE - Live Stream [Rated 17+] [Location Tracking] [Nudity] [Predators]



Review

This app is kind of like Twitch and YouTube, BIGO LIVE lets teens stream live video of themselves that other users can see and comment on in real time. You can also receive and send "Beans" -- BIGO's term for virtual gifts -- that cost real money. You can level up and improve your ranking by logging in every day and sending gifts. This livestreamer app rewards narcissism, has adult content.

What parents need to know

Parents need to know BIGO LIVE - Live Stream is a free app that lets users make video blogs or livestream their activities with the object of monetizing their videos. Livestreamers receive live commentary from other users, and the app lets you search for nearby users. Vloggers can share their posts via Facebook, Twitter and Vkontakt (a social media platform aimed at Eastern European users).

Profiles include users' names, gender, age, and location. User-generated content can include bad language, violence, and nudity. Though it's rated "Teen" on the Google Play store, iTunes rates it 17+.

BIGO has a lot of mature content, including sexy talk and clothing, and users' comments are often predatory and explicit. Also, its focus on status and spending money, as opposed to creativity and talent, makes it feel shallow.

BitLife [Rated 14+] [Adult Themed]



Review

In this simulation game, you're assigned an identity to play through the entire game, from infancy to death. As you play -- and your character gets older -- you can make text-based choices about how to make money, spend time, and develop relationships with pretend profiles (which aren't connected to real people). Those choices determine your levels of happiness, health, smarts, and appearance. When you die, you can start all over.

What parents need to know

Parents need to know BitLife - Life Simulator is a text-based app that starts you as a random character at birth and then allows you to make choices as your virtual life progresses. Though it's all about text-based choices, they are adult decisions that include one-night stands, threesomes, illegal drugs, murder and more. In one instance (having a one-night stand), the game plays a woman moaning. Players can also choose to have unprotected sex, which can result in pregnancy. The only in-app purchase removes ads.

Read the developer's privacy policy (<http://www.candywriter.net/ppolicy.pdf>) for details on how your (or your kids') information is collected, used, and shared and any choices you may have in the matter, and note that privacy policies and terms of service frequently change.

HOLLA: Live Random Video Chat [Rated 18+] [Nudity] [Location Tracking] [Predators]



Review

This app is all about connecting with strangers. Once you sign up using a phone number or your Facebook account, you can get matched instantly with a stranger -- and both you and they appear on camera. Or you can swipe Tinder-style until you like someone and they like you (by tapping a heart). You can also enable location tracking to be paired with someone nearby.

What parents need to know

Parents need to know that HOLLA: Live Random Video Chat is a freemium social networking app that lets users conduct live video chat sessions with random strangers. Registration requires either your phone number or a connection to your Facebook account, and the app insists on accessing your phone's camera and microphone. Default settings upon starting the app connect you to live random chat with users who could be doing literally anything (including engaging in sexual behaviors) when you connect.

The app's "Nearby" chat mode uses your phone's location tracker to connect you with nearby strangers, and free usage provides little information about the people you interact with; only HOLLA Prime members (\$9.99/mo) get to see full user profiles and search users by gender.

Video-chatting with strangers can be risky for teens. When it's paired with location, it's a no-go. Also, while HOLLA supposedly bans iffy content -- like nudity and violence -- user reviews indicate that masturbation, fake identities, and negative comments are common.

The app's age-matching is a red flag, too. It was easy for our tester to pose as a 13-year-old and get paired with adults.

Read the developer's privacy policy (<https://holla.world/privacy.html>) for details on how your (or your kids') information is collected, used, and shared and any choices you may have in the matter, and note that privacy policies and terms of service frequently change.

IMVU: 3D Avatar Creator & Chat [Rated 18+] [Adult Themed] [Location Tracking] [Predators]



Review

Using the website or the app, users interact through elaborate 3D avatars. You can dress them up, place them in public or private rooms, and follow other users and chat with them. There's no game or goal other than acquiring outfits, rooms, furniture, and other items or chatting with other users.

What parents need to know

Parents need to know that IMVU: 3D Avatar Creator and Chat is a freemium social networking app intended for users over 18. Virtual sex and user privacy are the main issues for teens in IMVU. The avatars sport highly stereotypical body types with big muscles or breasts, and many of the outfits are skimpy. It also appears that users generate a following on other platforms by sharing their IMVU usernames, which invites more contact with people they don't know.

Users can follow each other, send direct-messages, and chat with strangers in user-created chat rooms. The app's "Coffee Shop" mode matches users with individual chat partners via a dating app "swipe" mechanic. The app is an adjunct to the IMVU website service which encourages users to purchase "Upgrades" such as custom chat rooms, "Marriage" status, "VIP" status to remove ads, and "Age Verification," which adds an "age verified" badge to your account.

Read the developer's privacy policy (<https://secure.imvu.com/next/policyhub/privacypolicy/>) for details on how your (or your kids') information is collected, used, and shared and any choices you may have in the matter, and note that privacy policies and terms of service frequently change.

Likee – Formerly LIKE Video [Rated 16+] [Adult Interaction]



Review

Similar to the video lip-synching service Tik Tok, Likee lets you create short videos that often involve lip-synching. You can also follow other users, climb a leaderboard (based on how many likes you've gotten), send direct messages, and send virtual gems that cost real money to other users.

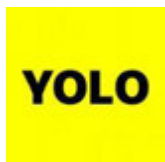
What parents need to know

Also like Tik Tok, Likee features mature music and dancing and allows strangers to interact. The leaderboard motif encourages kids to post frequently and gather likes -- basically to keep kids on the app longer and increase their circle of friends (which only benefits the company). So while it can be creative and fun, it's best used with strict privacy settings by teens who are savvy about keeping themselves safe online.

Parents need to know that Likee is a free video creation and editing app similar to musical.ly, your video social network that lets users star in their own music videos and share them online. All posts are public, though users can control who can message them. Because of suggestive content and viewers being able to send messages to individual video makers, it's best for older teens. Viewers can also share and comment on other users' video content, which could result in inappropriate or mean commentary. During special hashtag events, users can earn real-world money by gathering "likes," and the most popular videos appear on leaderboards and on the app's front page.

Read the app's privacy policy (<https://mobile.like.video/live/about/policy>) to find out about the kinds of information collected and shared.

Yolo: Q&A [Rated 17+] [Adult Interaction]



Review

Yolo got popular fast because it only works with Snapchat, which makes it an easy add-on. It lets users ask anonymous questions and get "feedback." Teens can then choose whether or not to make the responses public.

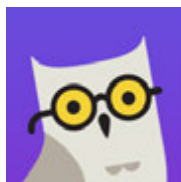
What parents need to know

Tweens and teens love anonymous feedback apps because they're concerned about what others think about them and want the freedom to be "honest" online. Because teens love them, these apps keep turning up like a bad penny. Like Sarahah as well as Lipsi, which is often used in conjunction with Instagram, lots of posts are positive, but anonymous feedback services are generally a recipe for bullying, trolling, and hurt feelings.

The terms of use state that users must be 13 or older, but the potential for suggestive or bullying content makes the app inappropriate for kids younger than 16. Beyond a warning that neither "objectionable content" nor abusiveness will be tolerated, and simple block and report tools, the app has no safety measures built in.

Read the developer's privacy policy (<https://onyolo.com/privacy>) for details on how your (or your kids') information is collected, used, and shared and any choices you may have in the matter, and note that privacy policies and terms of service frequently change.

Socratic Math & Homework Help [Rate 13+] [School Cheating]



Review

This app lets you take a picture of a homework problem or question and get an answer and explanation in return, similar to Photomath - Camera Calculator. Because it's more focused and filtered than an open internet search, the results are more targeted and helpful (in other words, it gives you the answers).

What parents need to know

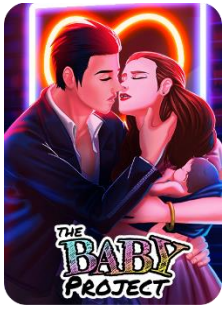
The biggest concern is cheating: If your kid decides to use this app as an easy way out of homework, they'll lose a lot of learning. Secondly, since the answers come from the internet, they aren't always right. Used with good judgment (and monitoring by a parent), a teen could legitimately use Socratic Math to dig into tough concepts, but it's pretty easy to use for cheating.

Parents need to know that Socratic - Math & Homework Help is a homework-help app that uses strong text-recognition technology to search the web for solutions to homework questions taken with a device's camera or entered manually with the keyboard.

Kids don't have to do anything more complicated than snap a shot of a question on an assignment, crop it, and hit search, and the app displays anything from basic web search results to curated answers provided by experts, computer algebra systems, or crowdsourced solutions and explanations on Socratic's own web platform. In most cases, it gives exact answers (with work shown) to even fairly complicated questions and deeper explanations about the concepts. Note that while the app itself takes great pains to be accurate and offer deeper learning opportunities beyond a correct answer, real educational value really depends on the user. It's an app best used in moderation and with some oversight so that kids don't see it as an easy way out.

Take a look at the app's privacy policy (<https://socratic.org/privacy>) and note that it doesn't permit users younger than 13 without a parent or guardian's supervision.

Episode - Choose Your Story [16+] [Adult Themed] [Sexual Content]



Review

This app features dynamic stories that let users make choices about the direction the story takes. Most center on subjects' teens care about, primarily romantic relationships. Users can also create their own stories and participate in user discussion forums.

What parents need to know

On the surface, this app has a lot to offer: It gets kids reading and allows them to create stories. Unfortunately, most of the stories have sexual content or innuendo, a focus on appearance, substance use, and swearing.

There's also quite a consumer push that encourages kids to spend real money to get the rest of a story faster. So while this app has a lot of positive potential and can provide a creative outlet for kids, it also has a lot of iffy messages that aren't appropriate for younger teens.

TikTok [Rated 16+] [Adult Content]



Review

TikTok is an app for creating and sharing short videos. Users can create short music videos of 3 to 15 seconds and short looping videos of 3 to 60 seconds. It encourages users to express themselves creatively through video. Special effects can be added to the videos. Sing, lip-synch, and share videos; watch for iffy content.

What Parents need to know

Thirteen is the minimum age, but there isn't a real way to validate age so anyone can download the app. Also, parents express concern that there is a lot of inappropriate language in the videos so it's not appropriate for young children. Lastly, by default, all accounts are set to public so strangers can contact your children.

Parents need to know that TikTok - Real Short Videos is a social network for sharing user-generated music videos. It used to be called musical.ly. Users can create and upload videos, remix others' work, or browse content created by other users and by famous recording artists.

However, as of 2019, in response to an FTC settlement, there's a separate section of the app for users under 13. That experience only lets users view curated videos: They can't comment, search, or post their own videos, and their data isn't collected. Because access to that area of the app only requires the user to enter a birthdate, the app is still recommended for older teens.

Read the developer's [privacy policy](https://www.tiktok.com/i18n/privacy/) (<https://www.tiktok.com/i18n/privacy/>) for details on how your (or your kids') information is collected, used, and shared and any choices you may have in the matter, and note that privacy policies and terms of service frequently change.

Tellonym [Rated 17+] [Adult Content] [Predators] [Cyberbullying]



Review

This is an anonymous messenger app. It calls itself “the most honest place on the internet.” This app is extremely popular in middle schools and high schools and it allows kids to ask and answer questions anonymously.

Anonymous messenger is ripe for cyberbullying, hurt feelings and adult content.

What parents need to know

It is a regular occurrence to see cyber bullying, violent threats, and sexual content. It also offers unmonitored access to the internet. The age restrictions are inconsistent ranging from 12 to 16, but this app is inappropriate for anyone younger than being in their late teens.

Parents need to know that Tellonym is an app designed for older teens that lets users leave anonymous comments for other users. People can register using either an email or a phone number and can search for friends via phone contact lists.

The app can be linked to Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat accounts, which means inappropriate messages can be accompanied by inappropriate visual content (images containing references to sex, drugs, violence, alcohol, or smoking). Users can block other users and can set a filter to block messages containing specific words. They can also report inappropriate messages through a built-in reporting system. With anonymity as the point of the app, the potential for cyberbullying is high. As with many apps like this, the terms of service aren't consistent: In some places it's indicated that a teen must be 17 to download and in others the requirement is 13.

Read the developer's privacy policy (<https://tellonym.me/legal/en/privacy>) for details on how your (or your kids') information is collected, used, and shared and any choices you may have in the matter, and note that privacy policies and terms of service frequently change.

Houseparty [Rated 14+] [Adult Themed] [Shaming]



Review

Houseparty is a video chatting app that's pretty open. Friends can communicate with each other through live video and texts in chat groups. It creates a virtual hangout and has many potential pitfalls.

What parents need to know

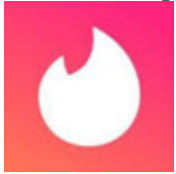
There's no screening and the video is live, so there's nothing to keep kids from inappropriate content. Users can send links via chat and even take screenshots. There's also nothing keeping friends of friends joining groups where they may only know one person.

Parents need to know that Houseparty - Group Video Chat is a video-focused social media app. Friends (and friends of friends) can communicate with each other via live video and texts. Because there's no screening and the video is live, there's always the possibility of inappropriate content for kids, but that will largely depend on the friends who are communicating.

The biggest risks are communicating with people you don't know well, pictures and screenshots getting shared around, and spending lots of time in virtual hangouts. Parents should also note that users can send links to their profiles on the app via a text message to whomever they want, and it's possible to take a screenshot even of private groups and share it.

Read the app's privacy policy (<http://joinhouse.party/privacy.html>) to find about the types of information collected and shared.

Tinder [Rated 18+] [Location Tracking] [Adult Interaction] [Predators]



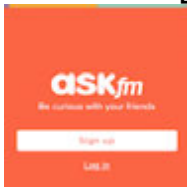
Review

Tinder's developers describe the app as "the fun way to connect with new and interesting people around you." But it's mainly used as a dating tool or an anonymous hook-up (read: one-night stand) locator by 20-somethings, college students, and even younger teens and tweens. (Yikes!)

What parents need to know: The app is rated ages 17+ but Tinder's privacy policy allows teens as young as 13 to register (the app connects with Facebook — which is also technically for ages 13+ — to pull in photos for users' Tinder profiles).

The geo-location features and anonymous nature of the app put kids at risk for catfishing, sexual harassment, stalking, and worse.

Ask.FM [Rated 13+] [Adult Content] [Cyberbullying]



Review

Social Q&A with lots of objectionable content. Lots of opportunity for Cyberbullying due to anonymity.

What parents need to know

Parents need to know that you can't register for Ask.fm unless you're 13, or say you are during registration. But you can't go back and enter a new birth date once you've been denied.

The site doesn't monitor content, which opens the door for content that's inappropriate, and that's very, very easy to find. Bullying has been a major concern in the past; the British news website MailOnline reported that the site has been linked to the suicides of several teens.

Kik Messenger [Rated 17+] [Adult Content] [Sex] [Predators] [Cyberbullying]



Review

Kik is a mobile app that people can use to text with friends at high speed and with more of a "face-to-face feel" than regular texting.

What parents need to know

The app is rated ages 17+, but there is no age verification so anyone can download it. Like some other instant messenger apps, Kik allows your teen to connect with others using just a username (rather than texting from her phone number). But it begs the question: Should teens be texting with people beyond their phone contacts?

Reviews in the App Store and Google Play store reveal that many people use Kik to meet strangers for sexting.

The app also been connected with cyberbullying. Rebecca Sedwick, the Florida bullying victim who killed herself, reportedly used Kik and Voxel in addition to ask.fm — receiving messages like "Go kill yourself" and "Why aren't you dead?" all without her mother even knowing about the apps. It's no surprise Kik has landed on some parents' "worst apps" lists.

GroupMe [Rated 15+] [Unfiltered] [Adult]



Review

Messaging app that lets users send direct messages. Lots of discussion about drugs, sex and often violent images.

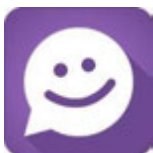
What parents need to know

Parents need to know that GroupMe is a messaging app that lets users send direct messages and group messages from mobile devices without message limits or fees.

Unfortunately, some of these emojis feature more adult themes, such as cartoon liquor bottles and sexy characters. Searches for GIFs find scantily clad people, drug use, and violent images. Some users like GroupMe for its stealth potential, since on-screen notifications pop up without content, which is appealing to some kids.

Read the app's privacy policy (<https://groupme.com/privacy>) to learn more about the types of information collected and shared.

MeetMe [Rated 18+] [Predators] [Adult] [Location Tracking]



Review

Creepy social network that features racy photos, suggestive talk and unfiltered messaging.

What parents need to know

Parents need to know that MeetMe - Chat and Meet New People is popular online flirting, entertainment, and social networking app and website, formerly called MyYearbook, and has some privacy and safety concerns.

Users primarily log on to interact with new people, instead of keeping up with real-life friends. Teens, who must be 13 and in high school to sign up, use "lunch money" or credits to do things like put their profile at the top of the homepage as a spotlight for others to see; to get "priority in match" to increase the number of "secret admirers" you get; and play online games. Much of the communication has flirty overtones.

Read the app's privacy policy (<https://www.meetme.com/apps/terms>) to find out about the types of information collected and shared.

Badoo [Rated 18+] [Predators] [Adult] [Location Tracking]



Review

Badoo is a giant, worldwide social-networking site. Countless pictures of people will appear for browsing when a user registers. It is an adult only dating app that uses location to match nearby people.

What parents need to know

Parents need to know that *Badoo* is an adults-only app for online dating-style social networking. The app identifies the location of a user by tracking his or her device's location and then matches pictures and profiles of potentially thousands of people the user could contact within the surrounding area.

Skout [Rated 17+] [Predators] [Adult] [Location Tracking]



Review

When using the dating app SKOUT, teens who set up an account can then view other teens, specifying an interest in male, female, or both. They can post to the buzz feed, comment on others' posts, add pictures, and private-message others. They'll get notifications when other teens near their geographic area join

What parents need to know

Parents need to know that *Skout* is a flirting app used to meet and chat with new people. Based on the age entered at registration, teens and adults are assigned to different groups, but ages aren't verified. Once teens turn 18, they're automatically moved into the adult group, but it's easy to enter a false birthday at registration and pose as either an adult or a teen.

In 2012, the teen app was briefly suspended to tighten safety protocols. As a result, a teen's exact location isn't revealed, only a general region, and posts are now more closely monitored. Also, teens can't send pictures in private messages. They *can* earn points for using the app and responding to ads. Then they can redeem points to reveal the profiles of users who've "checked" them out or to access users in other geographic areas. Posts include plenty of profanity and suggestive pictures.

LiveMe – Live Video Chat [Rated 17+] [Predators] [Adult] [Location Tracking]



Review

After logging in through Facebook, Instagram, or a phone number, users view live broadcasts or stream their own live video. The terms of service state that the app is meant for users 18 and older, though much younger teens are frequently broadcasting.

What parents need to know

Parents need to know that LiveMe - Live Video Chat is a tool for broadcasting live-streaming videos and watching others' videos. The terms of use specify that users be at least 18 or have parental permission to use the tool, but tweens and young teens are broadcasting.

The potential for predatory comments or bullying of broadcasters is a concern, as is the possibility of viewing inappropriate content, even though the message shown when logging on to each broadcast reminds users to report any violent or sexual content. During the review period, profanity and racial slurs were commonplace, some users were scantily clad, one 13-year-old was asked sexually charged questions, and one broadcast showed someone preparing marijuana.

Privacy issues abound as users have no control over who views their broadcasts, and all their clicks and interactions as a viewer could be collected or shared. Via in-app purchase, viewers can purchase coins to give as gifts to broadcasters. Also, a live quiz show called Quiz Biz allows users to answer questions and potentially win real money, and there's a music-themed show called "You Need The Code" which features indie artists. As of 2018, [musical.ly/TikTok](https://musical.ly/) users are being directed to this app if they want to livestream. Users log in with a phone number, Facebook account, or Instagram account.

See the privacy policy (<http://www.liveme.com/protocol/privacy.html>) for full details.

Hot or Not [Rated 18+] [Adult] [Objectification]



Review

It is an invasive app that focuses on objectification. After going through a surprisingly thorough sign-up process, users can rate others as "hot" or "not." They'll swipe through another user's portfolio of pictures and will also see how many interests and friends they have in common

What parents need to know

Hot or Not (called *Hot or ...* for iOS devices) is a social app that has users rate the attractiveness of others based on a series of photos. Users must first set up an account of their own, with photos and must verify their identity with a working email address or a Facebook account and their mobile phones. The site says it will not accept a profile unless the user is 13 or older, and that users 13-17 can't chat or share photos with users older than 17, but there's no age verification process. Users can log in to see what others think of them. And if two users think each other is "hot," they can send messages to each other. Keep in mind that there's no guarantee anyone is really who they say they are here.

Tumblr [Rated 17+] [Adult] [Self-Harm] [Sex]



Review

Many children and young teens are also active on this 17+ photo-sharing app. It can also be used for sharing videos and chatting.

What parents need to know: Common Sense Media says Tumblr is "too raunchy for tykes" because users can easily access pornographic, violent, and inappropriate content. Common Sense also notes that users need to jump through hoops to set up privacy settings and until then, all of a user's photo and content is public for all to see.

Mental health experts say that Tumblr can be damaging to adolescents' mental health because it tends to glorify self-harm and eating disorders

Whisper [Rated 18+] [Adult] [Objectification]



Review

This 17+ app's motto is: "Share Secrets, Express Yourself, Meet New People." It has a similar feel to the now-defunct PostSecret app, which was discontinued shortly after its release because it filled up with abusive content.

What parents need to know

Parents need to know *Whisper* is a social "confessional" app that allows users to post whatever's on their mind, which is then paired with an image. All too often, those whispers are sexual and sometimes so are users trying to meet with other users for sex. There's copious strong language and sexual images (though no actual sex is shown).

The app also encourages private communications in which users can exchange images and personal information. The iOS app requires users to confirm they're at least 17 years old before they download the app. It is absolutely not an app for children.

A 12-year-old girl in Washington was reportedly raped by a 21-year-old man who met her on Whisper.

Snapchat [Rated 16+] [Bullying] [Adult] [Sex]



Review

Snapchat is an app that allows users to send photos and videos that disappear after they're received. It's rated ages 12+. The filters and special effects allow users to alter pictures.

What parents need to know

Parents need to know that Snapchat is a popular messaging app that allows teens to exchange user-generated photos, texts, videos, and calls both audio and video. The developer claims that "Snaps" can't be saved within the app and are only viewable for one to 10 seconds before disappearing from the recipient's device, noting that the app notifies the sender if the recipient takes a screenshot of an image.

However, several third-party programs easily intercept and store any Snaps sent to the user, and users can buy replays of Snaps via in-app purchase, negating the "temporary" aspect of the service.

Users can share their location, they can see friends on a "Snap Map" and see Snapchat Stories from other users in various locations, and if they do opt in, they can use "Ghost Mode" to see others but not be visible themselves.

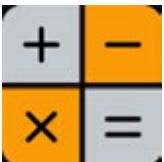
In terms of location, friends can also send their own location and request a friend's location, which will update live for eight hours unless turned off. There's also an option to share public stories on other social media platforms.

The app has gained a reputation as a "sexting" app because outgoing (and incoming) pictures, videos, and texts are not stored on devices, but many teens use it simply to exchange fun, silly pictures.

As of 2016, Snapchat also has video-recording glasses called Specs available for purchase which record short videos that you can send to your phone and, from there, post to Snapchat. Through the World Lends, users can find Snapchat Art which will place AR art in select cities so users can find the exact location and see the AR image.

Check out their Safety Center (<https://www.snapchat.com/safety>) and content for parents to get more information as well as the app's privacy policy (<https://www.snapchat.com/privacy>) to find out about the types of information collected and shared.

Calculator# and Calculator% [Rated 17+]



Review

A tool to hide videos and photos on your phone. It's deceptive and disguised design make it hard for parents to find hidden photos, videos and data.

What Parents need to know

Teens naturally seeking privacy and independence from adults could be tempted to experiment with these kinds of apps, such as the **teen who was caught** with an "upskirt" picture of his teacher. But they also might appeal to kids who don't have much to hide, so if you suspect a student of using a secret-camera app, don't freak out immediately. Instead, open a dialogue with parents and students about sexting and using phones responsibly.

Instagram [Rated 15+] [Adult Content] [Nudity] [Cyberbullying]



Review

This hugely popular photo-sharing site is owned by Facebook, so you may be more familiar with it than with other photo-sharing apps. Users can add cool filters or create collages of their photos and share them across Facebook and other social media platforms.

What parents need to know: The app is rated 13+ and may be slightly tamer than Tumblr, but users can still find mature or inappropriate content and comments throughout the app. "Trolls" or people making vicious, usually anonymous comments are common. A user can change the settings to block their location or certain followers, but many users are casual about their settings, connecting with people they don't know well or at all.

Parents need to know that Instagram is a popular platform for instantly enhancing photos and videos with cool effects and sharing them across a number of social media platforms. The terms specify that users should be at least 13 years old and should not post partially nude or sexually suggestive photos but do not prohibit the portrayal of violence, swear words, or drugs. Users can flag photos for review, but mature content still appears in some photos and in the comment sections.

Photos shared in Instagram are public and may have location information unless privacy settings are adjusted. Also, it's possible to save other users' photos. Instagram Direct allows users to send private messages directly to other users, and the time you were last active in the app (which could show people that you're active but not answering their messages) can be turned off in settings.

On a service referred to as IGTV, users can subscribe to other people's video collections called channels (like YouTube). Tinder users can access other Tinder users' Instagram feeds directly from within the Tinder app, even on private Instagram feeds if Tinder integration is enabled.

As of 2016, users can live-stream video, and video streams and selected private photos will disappear, Snapchat style. If they want to send an audio message, users can hold down the microphone button and record a minute-long message to send. Also, users can remove followers, turn off comments, mute followers, and like others' comments.

If users want to poll their friends, they can attach a sticker to an image to get votes. Teens will see lots of product placement and marketing, and they can make purchases directly from buy links in the app. The Your Activity feature shows how much time you've spent using the app, lets you set a time limit for yourself and get a reminder, and gives access to your notification settings. A green status dot shows your friends you're active in the app unless you turn it off in settings.

Parents can learn more about Instagram and see conversation starters around its use in their parents' guide (<https://wellbeing.instagram.com/parents>).

Read the app's privacy policy (<https://www.instagram.com/about/legal/privacy/>) to find out about the types of information collected and shared.

Next Steps for Parents...



Sit down with your child and find out which apps they are using, how they work, and whether they have experienced any issues on them, such as cyberbullying or contact from strangers.

Look into apps that help you monitor your child online. And keep these tips in mind: You can set up age limits on your child's device. The 2013 Pew Research Center survey found that nearly 40 percent of teens say that they have lied about their age to gain access to a site or create an account, so restricting kids' access to apps by age rating is a wise move.

You can't join every site or app and monitor your child's every move online; teens will always find a new platform that their parents don't know about yet. Rather than hovering or completely barring your child from downloading every social media app, sit down and go over some general rules to keep him smart and safe online.

Tell your child to let you know if someone is hurting her or making her feel uncomfortable online, even if the person is acting anonymously.

Make a rule that your child must ask for permission before downloading any apps, even free ones, just so you're aware of them. When your child wants to join a new social media platform, go through the security settings together to choose the ones you're most comfortable with. Advise your child not to share passwords with anyone, including best friends, boyfriends, or girlfriends.

<https://www.familyeducation.com/mobile-apps/a-complete-guide-to-potentially-dangerous-apps-all-parents-should-be-aware-of>

<https://www.common sense media.org/app-reviews/>

Digital Citizenship: Cyber Champions 2019



PSUSD has launched the newly updated Cyber Champions game. The new content will include updates on new apps, social media trends and online safety.

Will your school be the Cyber Champions this year? If so your school will win a 30 user AR/VR Kit!

New and Updated Cyber Champions Content

Apps

To app or not to app

Responsible use

Conversations with parents

Social Media

At what age is it ok to use Social Media

Social media for good

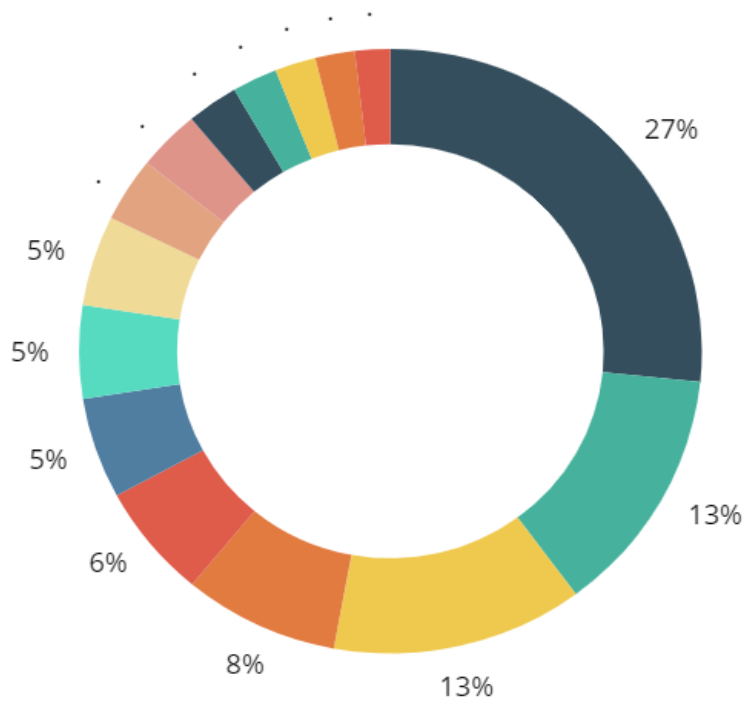
Cyberbullying and Social Media

Social Media Apps

Colleges, Employers and You

PSUSD Online Data and Security Anylitics

Top Websites By Visits



	TOTAL HITS
1 google.com	3155938
2 classroom.google.com	1568796
3 newtab	1550629
4 clever.com	956355
5 docs.google.com	723167
6 pvue.psusd.us	639418
7 apps.learning.amplify.com	589409
8 youtube.com	572590
9 lexiacore5.com	406745
10 carnegielearning.com	386778
11 apps.studysync.com	316792
12 student.schoolcity.com	278418
13 kahoot.it	252793
14 scratch.mit.edu	243022
15 my1.mheducation.com	217237



PSUSD SECURITY CHECK-LIST

- Web Filtering
- Google Applications
- Email Filtering
- Student Web Searches

1 More than just FERPA Compliant



How we use Technology:

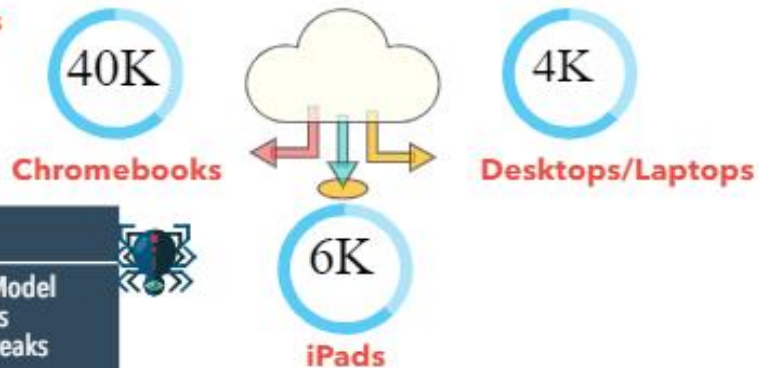
- ★ Machine Learning Analytics
- ★ Student Keywords Reports
- ★ Student Self Harm Reports
- ★ 24/7 Web Filtering
- ★ 24/7 Google Filtering

= Student Safety

2 Core Security Statistics



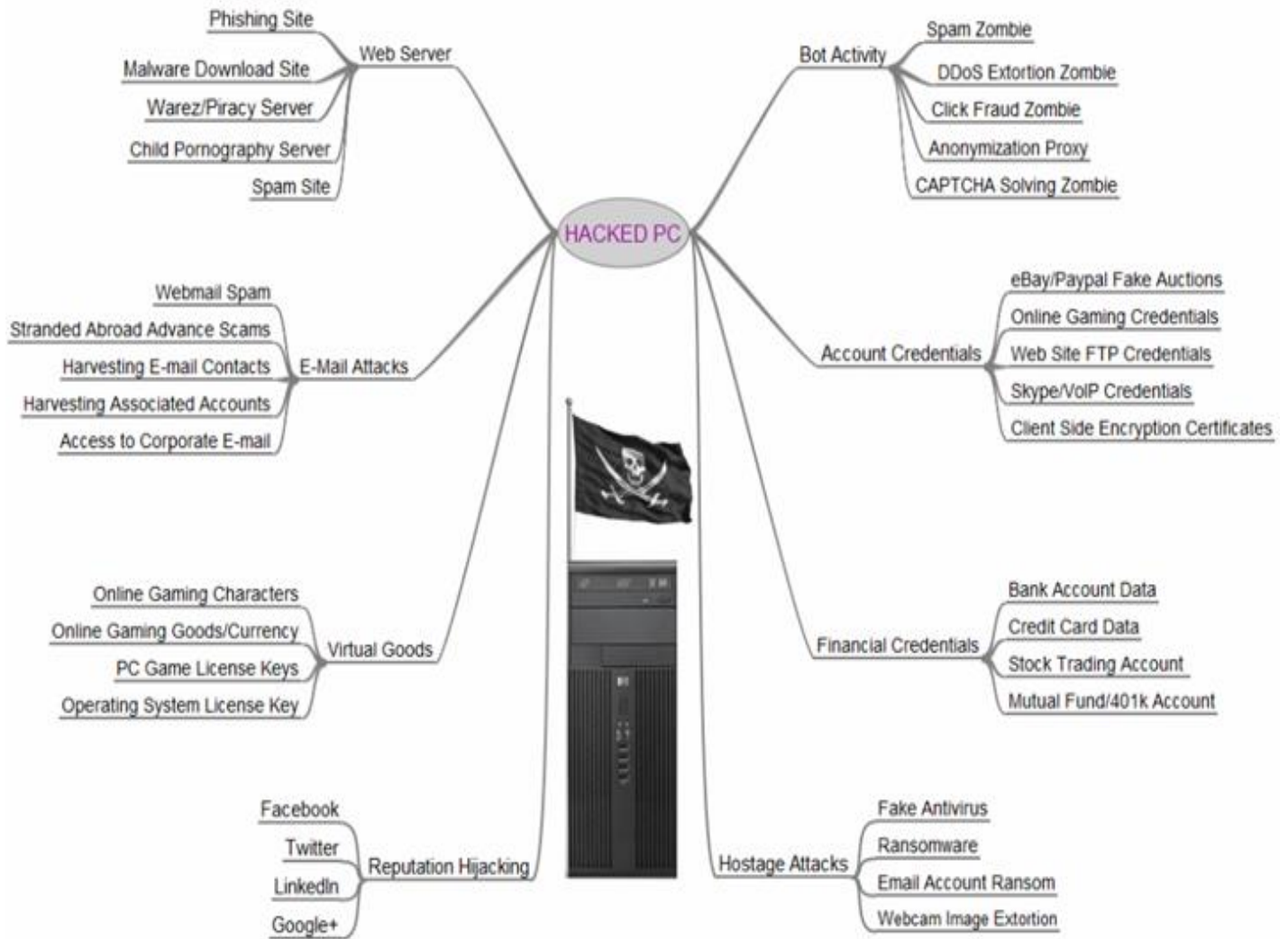
3 PSUSD #Protects



- #### 4 Last 24 Months
- ★ Zero Trust Security Model
 - ★ Zero Virus Outbreaks
 - ★ Zero Malware Outbreaks
 - ★ Zero Ransomware

Hackers, why they do it...

Hackers make money by stealing information. The most common information they steal is user information such as email accounts, usernames and passwords. However, they can also use your information for several other reasons. Below is a graphic on the many different ways a hacker can utilize a hacked PC.



<https://krebsonsecurity.com/2012/10/the-scrap-value-of-a-hacked-pc-revisited/>

';--have i been pwned?

Check if you have an account that has been compromised in a data breach

Use the tool 'have I been PWNED' to see if your email accounts have been compromised by going to the following website;

<https://haveibeenpwned.com>

From there enter in your email address that you use to see if they have been compromised on any websites or if they are a part of hacker lists.



Google Offers a [Password Checkup extension](#) that notifies a user when they use an unsafe password. The Password Checkup extension helps you secure accounts that were affected by data breaches.