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Toward Child-Friendly Cybercafé

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Pedophilic Internet Café Scam

- Pedophilic Internet Café Scam Investigated in Thailand
 - Pedophile agent using unlicensed internet café business to deceive children into committing indecent acts
 - Café operator offers the children the chance to clear debt by performing indecent, sexual acts, with largely foreign clients
 - Photographs and videos of the incidents would then be uploaded onto the internet
- Some Internet cafes have "cyber hostess" to help customer browse websites but actually providing sex business
- A girl aged only 15 was forced to do sex business at an Internet cafe in Jordan, so as to repay debt



Who Protects our Children Online and in Cybercafés ?

AGENDA

- Internet in perspective and Internet cafés
- Cyberspace and Internet Café Threats
- Factors making the Cyberspace Dangerous
- Case studies
 - Online Children Protection – Nepal
 - Child Friendly Internet Café Ordinance – Philippines
 - Specific Conditions on Cybercafés – Hong Kong
 - Africa – Youth Mobilization to promote Codes of Conduct in cybercafes
- Toward Child-Friendly Internet Cafés
 - The TRA & government actions
 - Cafe operators actions
 - Awareness raising campaigns

Technology has changed our world and the way we do things, bringing tremendous benefits

- Online Technologies present many possibilities to
 - communicate, learn new skills, be creative and contribute to establishing better society
- Internet in itself is a neutral medium providing access to enormous amounts of information which makes it of enormous importance to:
 - Education and Research
 - Conduct of business
 - World of entertainment
- Internet changes our manner of communication and access information due to its:
 - Size, speed, inexpensiveness, indiscriminate nature, interactiveness,...

Internet Café or Cybercafé

- Cybercafés are commonplaces providing Internet access to the public, usually for a fee
- Internet cafés also include lounges, arcades, hotels, resorts or restaurants offering combination of services such as Internet and food, bar, accommodations or library services, etc..
- In some European countries, the number of Internet cafés and publicly accessible terminals is decreasing, the cause is a combination of :
 - Complicated Regulation
 - Relatively high Internet penetration rates
 - Widespread use of notebooks and PDAs
 - Relatively high number of WLAN hotspots
- Many pubs, bars and cafés in Germany offer WLAN, but no terminals since the Internet café regulations do not apply if no terminal is offered
- Worlds first Virtual Internet Café was released in Sweden (July 2008)
 - Users remote control designated Cafe computers instead of using their PCs
 - Users are completely anonymous while protecting their own computers from malicious software and spywares

Cyberspace - New Opportunities and Threats



- Besides the countless benefits, Cyberspace can be a harmful place for children
- Online danger and harmful activities include:
 - Access to harmful and illegal content including Obscene and Violent images and even information about Gun sales and Weapons
 - Cyber Bullying and Harassment
 - Slander misuse of personal data and misinformation
 - Identity Theft
 - Internet Fraud
 - Adult Pornography
 - Child Pornography - materials depicting child sexual abuse
 - Pedophile and Grooming for sexual purposes
 - Gambling, Online Games Addiction
 - Children are also enticed to buy, sell or trade harmful and child abuse materials such are Drugs, Pornographic materials,..

Internet Café Threats

Cybercafés give computer and internet access facility but this facility is frequently misused

- Cybercafé users are mainly children and youths with majority being males
- Many youths access cybercafés for playing computer games, surfing the web, chatting, dating,...
- Growing number become addicted, surf pornographic sites, engage in online fraud and deception,...
- No law expressly requiring cybercafés to protect children online or monitor content, so business operators feel not obligated to do it
- Laws and Ethical standards that govern our daily behavior often do not apply to the virtual world, thus, every child right can be violated and every kind of perversity can be expressed freely



Several Factors makes the Cyberspace Dangerous

- Internet Content is largely unregulated
 - No mandatory regulation existing across Internet to regulate websites content
- Internet can be used by pedophiles, pornographers and child traffickers
 - can remain relatively anonymous while children make unsupervised use of the net
 - reach children easily with smaller chance of being caught by law enforcement agencies
- Little to no ethical control on the Internet Content
 - makes it possible for children to encounter all kind of inappropriate or thoroughly harmful images/messages
- Social Interactions in virtual settings often differ from those in the real world
 - Moral standards lowered in many cases, and can have a profound impact on forming children's attitudes and personalities

Parental Apathy

- Nowadays, Parents are apathetic to what their children do
- Majority of them are not aware of online risks their children are exposed to
- More worrisome is the low level of computer literacy among Adults/Parents
 - children and youths are very technically savvy and adapt to the Internet world change much faster
 - Makes it difficult for parents to monitor their children's behavior online
 - While parents imagine their children safely at home and cybercafés, in reality they are thrown into the virtual world completely unprotected

Institutional Weakness

- Internet remains largely unregulated
- Lack of adequate legislation on the Internet (cyber law)
- Poor policing of the Internet (cyber policing)
- Indifferent attitude of Providers
- Defective law enforcement to check cyber crimes
- Operations of cybercafés are largely unregulated and most cyber criminals do not get punished

Social Apathy

- Poor level of awareness of the online risks which children and youth are exposed to
- Poor coordination of efforts by the civil society to protect children and youth online

Case study: Online children Protection – Nepal



Findings from discussions with Nepali children

- Sharing of personal details with strangers is common
- Pornographic images are viewed by many (both intentionally and accidentally)
- Sexual advances and use of foul language are encountered by many
- No conception of possible risks and no hesitation about meeting online friends in real life
- Parents are usually not informed about their children's online friends and experiences
- No information about child safety issues in cyberspace
- No public or governmental awareness about the risks for children in cyberspace
- No measures to protect children in cyberspace
- Complete lack of legislation regarding this issue
- Increasing vulnerability of children because of the generation gap in IT knowledge

What needs to happen

- Children Protection is a common responsibility for society as a whole, including
 - Adults, Governmental, Nongovernmental and Commercial organizations
- CWIN (Child Workers in Nepal) takes initiative to start a project/campaign to address the issue of online child protection

Expected outcomes

- Establishing Code of Conduct for cybercafés regarding child safety
- Workgroup with ISP's to initiate measures for blocking access to child pornography
- Hotline for reporting on child pornography, online abuse and disturbing experiences of children
- New Legislation by the government on internet technologies
 - like downloading and spreading of child pornography and grooming
- Regulation for exploitation of cybercafés
- Integration of online safety information into educational system
 - Distributions of awareness materials through schools
- Raise awareness among parents, teachers and children
 - Information provided for children
 - protect them online and encourage a safer and more responsible attitude on the use of internet
 - Information provided for teachers and parents
 - Give idea of the children's behavior on the internet
 - Highlight possible dangers and help to accompany and protect children online

Child Friendly Internet Café Ordinance - Philippines



- Prohibition against installation of private cubicles or rooms
- Posting of internet safety rules and cyber ethics principles in a visible place and in every open cubicle
- Firewall and Content Control
 - Internet cafés shall provide their own firewall software to control the type of content accessed through the internet
 - Install filtering software that inhibits access to pornographic websites
- Internet user's logbook
 - Maintain an internet user's logbook containing the name of the user, age, address, login and logout times, and signature
 - All users shall be required to show a valid ID to validate this information

- Internet User's Conduct
 - Internet cafés shall not tolerate or promote any user's indecent conduct inside the establishment
 - Internet cafés staff shall report the incident to the police or law enforcement agency, if:
 - User engaged in indecent is a child
 - User accesses child pornography
 - User is engaged in any illegal activity
 - computer hacking, identity theft, credit card fraud, cyber- sex, etc..
 - If staff has any knowledge that a child will be, may be, or has been
 - sexually exploited online or
 - involved in the production, distribution, sale of child pornography
- Special protection for child internet user
 - Child users shall not be allowed to use internet café services during school hours without permission
 - No smoking and consumption of alcoholic beverages is allowed inside the Internet café, especially in the presence of a child user

Specific conditions on Cybercafés – Hong Kong

- Internet cafe Operator is required to give notice of its establishment to the relevant authority
- Some specific conditions on the child protection
 - Maintain a log of users with valid photo-identity cards
 - Install filtering software so as to block sex and gambling websites
 - Install devices to screen violent, pornographic or gambling websites
 - Minors are not be allowed to use computers in cubicles or behind partitions, the screens should be visible to passers-by
 - Youth are not allowed to stay at internet cafes after 10pm without permission
- Failure to comply with these conditions could result in suspension or termination of business

Africa - Youth Mobilization to promote Codes of Conduct in internet cafes



Objectives of the “Make-IT-Safe” Campaign

- Raise awareness
- Lobby the cybercafé owners to monitor content watched by children and ban pornography viewing in their businesses

Partnering with Youth

- Children and Youth can make significant contributions to the fight against CSEC (*Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children*)
- in touch with the dynamism of IT
- can be peer educators to their peers
- have ability to influence

Proposals/Recommendation

- Develop standardized Codes of Conducts in internet cafes to guide on how to protect children online
- Encourage youth partnership with both private and public sectors
- Develop proposals that encourage more Youth, Private & Public sector alliance
- Engage youth actively in all aspects of the society, especially in governance

- The forum urged all stakeholders to give serious consideration to
 - Raise internet awareness campaign targeted at parents, educators & counselors
 - Promote a safe Internet culture among children and youth
 - help bridge the existing gap between adults/ parents and children
 - there's need for parents and teachers to develop their IT skills
 - Encourage parent to install parental control software and appropriate online protection tools to monitor and control what their children do online
 - Professionals within ICT are urged to adopt self-regulation mechanisms towards reducing the prevalence of unethical materials online
 - Providers of Internet access and service should be actively involved in promoting information security for children while carrying out their business
 - Governments should enact legislation to ensure appropriate Internet policing
 - Law enforcement agencies should be empowered to adequately deal with cybercrimes
 - Relevant government agencies should ensure that cybercafés and service providers enhance information security for children

Call for Child-Friendly Internet Cafés

- Objective is to regulate the access youths have to cybercafés and even to set up “child-friendly” Internet cafes
- Child-Friendly Internet Café - one that meets three basic criteria:
 - It has filtering programs installed on computers available to children
 - These computers are monitored by the café employees
 - The café displays materials that promote safe Internet use
 - posters and brochures that can be read by child internet users

Children protection requires a global solution from all segments of society including government, operators, adults and children

■ **The TRA and governmental actions**

- Laws and Policies that redound to the benefit and protection of children
- Regulation governing the operation of cybercafés and guidelines on “control of cyber business centres”
- Legislation allowing the creation of special child-friendly cybercafés for where smoking is banned and computers are fitted to block access to pornography
- pursue strict and punitive legislation with regards to the Internet, especially child pornography
- Check and inspect cybercafés to ensure compliance of the rules

Toward Child-Friendly Cybercafés : Cafe Operators Actions

■ Internet cafe operators actions

- Maintain log register of all users
- Monitor the websites their customers view
- Coordinate with law enforcement agency and report any Incident on child abuse or Concern over suspicious activity
- Initiate measures for blocking access to child pornography
- Provide procedures and software to assist in the control and monitoring of minors' access to Internet content
- Take sufficient precautions so that computers are not used for any illegal or criminal activity

Toward Child-Friendly Internet Cafés

Awareness raising campaigns

Fighting child abuse is very difficult: children are vulnerable, and are often ashamed or afraid to report what has happened to them

- **lead the effort in awareness raising campaigns**
 - Increased development manuals for children, teachers and parents
 - addressing the internet threats and providing information about sexual exploitation of children online
 - Empower children and Increase awareness
 - Give children safe surfing guidelines
 - Tell them how to report child pornography and online abuse
 - Let children take the lead and speak about their experiences
 - Encourage youth and children to use child-friendly cybercafés that care about children's safety

call for great individual, corporate and communal responsibility to keep our children safe and to prevent junk from 'educating' our children. Otherwise Internet may cause an unimaginable slide of norms and values in our future real world



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Thank You

