

**Title of Session:** Tech in the Classroom - Internet Safety

**Moderator:** Donna Hendry

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Room: After School Online

**DonnaH** joined the room.

**JeffC** waves

**DonnaH** waves cheerily back:)

**BJ:** Donna, this is a great group!

**DonnaH:** "okay okay...I figured, beginning of the year, we'll revisit some important notes on Internet Safety.

**RoslynT:** One minute to go ... you're right BJ ... can't wait!

**JeffC:** Ooooh! I have an interesting anecdote relating to internet safety!

**DonnaH** grins

**BJ:** Perhaps we can start with introductions, Donna?

**CatherinMo:** You've got my attention

**DonnaH:** "Sure, BJ:)

**DonnaH:** "My name is Donna Hendry, and I'm an educational consultant who lives in CT. I lead this and the LA forum here at TI:)

**BJ:** I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania

**MarissaD:** My name is Marissa. I am a preservice teacher at the University of Houston.

**SummerL:** My name is Summer, I teach middle school social studies in Manhattan, KS

**RoslynT:** I am a high school English teacher from Australia. I live in Tasmania, as Jeff said "way down under".

**BJ . o O** ( we usually start all the discussions here in Tapped In with introductions )

**JeffC:** My name is Jeff Cooper, and I have been the class clown my whole life.

Currently, between gigs, I work as Education Technology Specialist at Pacific University's College of Education.

**GavinG:** I am a full-time grad student at Kansas state university getting my masters in education administration and leadership.

**LoriAM:** My name is Lori. I am working on my Administration Certificate from Kansas State University.

**SummerL:** I am working in ed admin and leadership as well

**CatherinMo:** My name is Catherine and I'm in my last year at Univ. of Houston, working on my BS in elem. ed.

**DonnaH:** The first thing I want everyone to do is to give me ONE rule they would give their class.

**DonnaH:** (internet safety rule...sorry \*blush\*)

**RoslynT:** Choose a good middle-of-the-road username, something they would not be embarrassed about if the school principal came and stood behind them in the computer room.

**JeffC:** Use good manners

**MarissaD:** Never give out personal information to anyone without my approval. (This

includes you full name or picture)

**CatherinMo:** I would only allow students to browse using a kids' search engine

**CatherinMo:** Good one, Marissa

**GavinG:** Rule: Don't explore sites you know or think might be wrong.

**SummerL:** Know your sources - how reliable/biased are they

**LoriAM:** There should be teacher supervision at all times. (Elementary)

**DonnaH:** Very good...we hit most of the important ones.

**DonnaH:** when dealing with email...most places give you an initial and your last name...have students (especially those under 13) change it...a nickname something..

**DonnaH:** we tend to overlook that one.

**DonnaH:** it doesn't take a hacker/predator much to figure that one out.

**DonnaH:** On the same line...private information private....

**DonnaH:** What do we consider private information?

**MarissaD:** addresses, hobbies, family life, etc

**GavinG:** credit card numbers, addresses...

**DonnaH:** (HA! credit card #'s \*giggle\*)

**CatherinMo:** age, addresses, self descriptions

**DonnaH:** if a child is in a chat...don't give out any sort of details...

**RoslynT:** I am amazed how generic e-mail accounts (e.g. Hotmail) seem to prompt account applicants to disclose significant numbers - e.g. age, street number, year born. I notice this a lot with kids' home e-mail addresses and they should think about how obvious that is, not just to hackers but to anyone with half a brain.

**DonnaH:** all a predator needs is a first name, what school, and what sport you might play...

**DonnaH:** it doesn't take much.

**DonnaH:** Exactly Roslyn:) Which is why I strongly suggest reviewing what students' email addies ...

**DonnaH:** OR...going through email suppliers specifically for students.

**RoslynT:** In our state there is a very strict code - teachers are not allowed to post identifying names alongside pictures of students on internet pages.

**MarissaD:** that's good

**JeffC:** Don't let kids have hotmail accounts... use <http://www.epals.com> if you want them to have safe (and filterable) email.

**DonnaH:** our school system doesn't allow students email...or access to free emails.

**JeffC:** Haven't you convinced them otherwise yet Donna?

**DonnaH:** I'd have them form mail me, I'd be able to see it, then forward it on.

**DerekW:** I run the web page for my school, what guidelines are being used for student pix and info appearing on the page

**CatherinMo:** I was going to ask, is it OK to have students set up email accounts?

**DonnaH:** depends on the system.

**DonnaH:** I couldn't even access my own yahoo mail from school computers.

**JeffC:** Two sites that I recommend for student email are gaggle.net and epals.com ... I could spend hours talking about how great both sites are... but hey... I have to go and pick up my kids!

**DonnaH:** Gaggle I've heard absolutely wonderful things about.

**CatherinMo:** I've never heard of those, thanks for the tips

**MarissaD:** What about for pen-pals? Have you had success with that?

**RoslynT:** I've given e-pals a go, but I really can't say I'm impressed.

**DonnaH:** it really depends on the students.

**JeffC:** Email is the most important tool the Net has to offer. Because administrators build their technology rules on a foundation of paranoia... they presume the worst will happen... and then disallow everything.

**DonnaH:** I find that many students get frustrated with their typing abilities...at least at the upper elementary level.

**RoslynT:** Yes, some of the students writing to us were so rude - demanding information on Australia with no manners at all and no introduction as to who they were or why they wanted to write to us - I just gently eased my kids out of it.

**CatherinMo:** I get frustrated with my typing abilities!

**JeffC:** Well... duh... yeah... they don't type really well... but why not let them give it a shot? Compose email in Word, then copy paste over to email?

**MarissaD:** That's terrible. Were they very young?

**RoslynT:** Not necessarily young, but rather lacking in training, I thought.

**MarissaD:** Hhhmmm. Teacher should have stepped in.

**DonnaH:** You know. this is a great revolution right now. My grandmother used to bemoan the fact that us young people never really learned the art of letter writing.

**CatherinMo:** I would think email and chatting would help them with their typing skills

**DonnaH:** Exactly.

**MarissaD:** exactly

**DonnaH:** you can't blame a class, but the teacher for not being properly trained.

**JeffC:** You're talking about Epals Roslyn? Well... manners of course is a tough thing to teach... especially manners from students across the sea. Did I mention, btw, that my one rule is "Use Good Manners?" Anyways... that can be an issue... and epals does some wonderful things. But... you do what you need to do.

**DonnaH:** What exactly makes "good manners"?

**JeffC:** Something that doesn't p\*ss off people on the other end?!

**DerekW:** Students don't take the time to learn to type correctly and only learn through chat and e-mail, they could be a lot faster with the proper technique

**DonnaH:** but what could that be Jeff? especially if you're dealing with another culture?

**JeffC:** Good question Donna. Being polite always counts. Use "please"... introduce yourself... be nice... etc.

**RoslynT:** In an e-mail, just as in a letter, it is important to introduce yourself and your purpose. I think it is also polite to let people know how you found their private e-mail address.

**CatherinMo:** Derek, what if you made your students, or suggested, proper grammar and typing, such as punctuation. I would think chatting would help them on their accuracy and speed.

**DonnaH:** not if they're henpecking, Catherine:)

**DonnaH:** they gain speed...but you can only go so fast with the two finger approach:)

**MarissaD:** How else do you use technology in your class on a regular basis?

**CatherinMo:** I agree with you Roslyn, manners are very important

**DonnaH:** most of my students freak when they've seen how fast I actually type.

**DonnaH:** but...if we just finished telling the students not to give out any personal

information....

**DonnaH:** we need to make sure our rules don't contradict each other.

**JeffC:** Anyhow... before I go... I would like people to take a look at:

[http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/trib/20030904/lo\\_sun/fedsarresthollywoodmaninonlinepornmousetrappingscheme](http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/trib/20030904/lo_sun/fedsarresthollywoodmaninonlinepornmousetrappingscheme) (I tried to make a tinyurl redirect... but the system was down).

**CatherinMo:** Donna, is there a good way to utilize chatting? Is there anyway that you could try and keep them from pecking

**JeffC:** When I get back... I'll tell people how I had a role in nabbing the bad guy!

**JeffC** waves bfn

**JeffC** left the room (signed off).

**DonnaH:** I'm in the minority...but I think chatting for students can be a HUGE boon.

**DonnaH:** I learn so much about other people, cultures, by talking to people in chat.

**RoslynT:** So do I, Donna, but it's taken me a few years to work up to the confidence to get into it.

**DonnaH:** but I think for the most part, it's very hard to find a safe, secure chat....and most school filters totally disallow them.

**CatherinMo:** Sorry, Donna. I'm not hip on the lingo. Could you further explain?

**RoslynT:** Our location in the Southern Hemisphere makes it rather difficult to coordinate student chats with people overseas.

**DonnaH:** Most people disagree with me. they consider that chats are intrinsically unsafe and full of predators.

**DonnaH:** therefore, most filters unilaterally block out chats.

**DonnaH:** to this day, I STILL cannot get to Tapped In from a school computer.

**CatherinMo:** What do you think?

**RoslynT:** Our school system provides its own chat rooms.

**DonnaH:** (that is very cool, Roslyn!)

**DonnaH:** I think that online is just like the real world...

**CatherinMo:** Roslyn, that's cool

**DonnaH:** we wouldn't want our first grade class wandering down Bourbon street during Mardi Gras.

**RoslynT:** Not really. To make chat motivating you need people outside your classroom.

**DonnaH:** but that doesn't mean that they can't get something out of New Orleans.

**MarissaD:** Roslyn, did they just implement that? that's awesome.

**RoslynT:** It's been set up since 1999, but not very much utilized.

**DonnaH:** I personally have problems with filters in general.

**DonnaH:** it's the teacher's job to keep the students on task and safe...

**RoslynT:** I am rather frustrated that our school blocks Tapped In too.

**CatherinMo:** Donna, I agree

**SummerL:** I agree, and we have problems with filters that don't block a lot of inappropriate stuff

**DonnaH:** I can live with it, because its a prof. dev. thing for ME...what I can't is when students are doing reports...say, on marijuana for health...and I have to print up all their research, because its been blocked at school.

**MarissaD:** I hear that happens a lot with body terminology as well

**RoslynT:** You have to be fairly confident - or experienced perhaps - to take on chat in the

classroom. With 30 kids in a class, I find bulletin board discussions manageable, but I've scheduled chat about FRESH WATER for the last week in September. Anyone want to join us?

**MarissaD:** Thanks for the invite, but I'm not sure what class I will be in then. (I am student teaching)

**DonnaH:** Back to topic...and perhaps this is more of a "parent" thing than a "teacher" concern...but another really (really) big rule is "never arrange to meet someone you've met online.

**CatherinMo:** Can't say right now, I've gotta busy schedule this semester

**GavinG:** I have a friend that is marrying someone they met online.

**DonnaH:** Email, me Roslyn...won't have the students...but I'd be happy to depending on the scheduling:)

**SummerL:** we have to address "parent" things all the time in school, we should for internet use as well

**DonnaH:** I have too...

**DonnaH:** and I've met people I've met online...

**DonnaH:** but there's a world of difference between a 20 something meeting someone and a 14-15 year old meeting someone.

**SummerL:** isn't being an adult different? kids need to understand that

**CatherinMo:** But kids don't always

**LoriAM:** Don't we lead by example? We have to be careful about doing what we say not what we do!

**DonnaH:** what they don't understand is...girls between the ages of 14-19 are the highest target group for cyber predators.

**DonnaH:** no one WANTS me anymore \*laugh\*

**CatherinMo:** ha ha

**DonnaH:** and even so...as an adult, even people I've known online for years \*and those who don't know me...I've been online since 1991) I STILL meet my friends in a public place, away from my home, with plenty of people around.

**SummerL:** I think we do have to lead by example, especially in a school setting, but kids still need to know that some things are not okay for kids no matter what adults do

**CatherinMo:** I would be very skeptical to meet anyone in person from online. It's very risky, and we need to teach kids that.

**GavinG:** I agree with Summer

**DonnaH:** I find being honest with the students is a good thing. most students are used to hearing "don't meet people from the internet" and hear the horror stories.

**DonnaH:** they don't hear how to combat it...and don't hear how being honest with the grownups in your life can help.

**CatherinMo:** it's just like don't talk to strangers

**SummerL:** just like we would never condone drinking for kids, but there are situations where that is okay and appropriate for adults

**RoslynT:** Lori - you're right there. I've faced that issue in internet publishing. In bulletin board discussions and chat, kids are happy to use fake names, but when it comes to major work of which they're very proud - a whole website for example - it's a dilemma when you say "Please don't use your real name" when I have used mine on my own sites.

**DonnaH:** even now...I tell my family where I'm going, who I'm meeting...and leave a file

with any personal information of the person I'm meeting...and these are people I've been talking with for 5-8 years.

**DonnaH:** I'm a writer and photographer...these sites do NOT have my real name on them. the only place my real name is have to do with my professional work.

**DonnaH:** and the types of people within each of those areas are very different.

**DonnaH:** I'm less likely to be stalked by someone following my education career than I am someone following my writing career.

**CatherinMo:** I agree, it depends on where you've met the person, what kid of site

**GavinG:** how do you know there aren't "bad people" that get into tapped-in

**RoslynT:** We solve that problem by setting up a special e-mail alias account - e.g. for the Fresh Water site we've just made the account address [freshwater@ogilvie.tased.edu.au](mailto:freshwater@ogilvie.tased.edu.au) takes site visitors to the manager's e-mail address without disclosing the name.

**DonnaH:** but these are minutia that students, especially older students don't comprehend.

**DonnaH:** We do occasionally have "bad people" pop in, Gavin.

**GavinG:** are they predators?

**DonnaH:** but, we also have live help desk and ways to kick off troublemakers.

**JeffC** joined the room.

**SummerL:** are there ways to block those people?

**DonnaH:** usually, by "bad people" its kids coming in and spouting off at the mouth.

**DonnaH:** there is indeed. ummm Bj, remind me the way to ignore idiots?

[Ed. Note If someone bothers you, type /ignore <username> to not hear them, and tell the HelpDesk.]

**SummerL:** is there any tracking of "predator" email accounts, so they can't register at sites where students may be

**DonnaH:** as well, you can log their information and send it to the helpdesk.

**DonnaH:** there isn't, Summer. It's too easy for people to get new free accounts.

**DonnaH:** HOWEVER. you CAN report questionable activity...

**CatherinMo:** to the help desk?

**GavinG:** what if they just observing and not participating, they can still get peoples names and where they work

**MarissaD:** or to the moderator?

**SummerL:** do most sites have places to report activity? I know there is a lot more "help" and monitoring here than in other chats

**DonnaH:** on here, you can send it to the help desk...you log the person's behavior \*say they're cussing a blue streak\* and it marks their IP addie so they can be blocked

[Ed. Note: To log any inappropriate behavior, highlight the user's name under the HERE or ONLINE tab, click on the Actions drop down menu in the top right of the chat window and click on SHOW LOGIN INFO. Then click on the actions drop down menu and SEND TO PASTEBOARD. Copy the information from the pasteboard, paste to an email and send the email to [ti2contactus@tappedin.org](mailto:ti2contactus@tappedin.org).]

**DonnaH:** The national Center for Missing and exploited children have a report center for online instances...

**DonnaH:** \*gets the url for you\*

**DonnaH:**

[https://secure.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/CybertipServlet?LanguageCountry=en\\_US](https://secure.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/CybertipServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US)

**SummerL:** thank you

**DonnaH:** if you think someone has erroneously approached a child on a chat, you've found child pornography, anything of that sort, report it.

**DonnaH:** they are very good about getting things removed...

**CatherinMo:** What about the jerks who can store their kiddie porn on others' computers

**DonnaH:** if you suspect someone, I believe you can report...

**DonnaH:** but remember, there ARE countries where it's not illegal... .ru for example, is very hard to report...because I think the legal age there is either 13 or 14.

**JeffC:** There are ways to search computers for porn. Did anyone check the news story I put up the URL for, about the porn king who was arrested for using kid-friendly sites as redirects to porn? Several years ago, I helped start legislation prohibiting such actions... and now... the first arrest!

**DonnaH:** the NCMEC can only deal with American sites...though they can work to block foreign sites.

**DonnaH:** (now that you're back...do tell:) )

**CatherinMo:** Good for you, Jeff

**JeffC:** In a nutshell... I've been using <http://www.mybookmarks.com/public/coops> for several years now to upload my K-12 links. I had over 1500 and was doing an in-service for professors... showing them the site that I commented was "kid friendly" since I had handpicked all the URLs. Well... a prof calls me over... and one of the links is a porn site! I was flabbergasted... because the original site (kidzone) was anything but that. Well... kidzone had dropped out... and porn sites at the time had the practice of buying dropped domains with high counts. I contacted the ACLU, but they couldn't help...

**CatherinMo:** Oh my gosh

**MarissaD:** good thing the prof caught it. that's crazy.

**JeffC:** They said they only handled the government's infringing upon "freedom of speech"... (I thought my freedom of speech was abrogated by this practice). They said I would have to sue the porn industry. Not having that kind of money... I contacted my Congressman (David Wu). I spoke with his education liaison for several months... and argued that the practice was illegal, since it was taking a known kid site, and redirecting to porn.

**MarissaD:** congrats. it worked, huh?

**CatherinMo:** Wow, you rock Jeff

**DonnaH:** \*grins\*

**JeffC:** I also argued that everything would be solved if porn was relegated to .sex or .xxx domains. That would make life easier for everybody. Well.. a couple of years passed, and a "watered down" bill made it through... which basically says that porn sites may not use redirects that look like kid friendly sites. But no .xxx or .sex requirements.

**JeffC:** Anyhow... they finally busted Mr. Porn Redirector on the law! So yeah... happy days!

**CatherinMo:** You should get a medal or something

**DonnaH:** I guess the question you have to ask is...WHY would someone put porn in the direct way of a child?

**MarissaD:** exactly

**CatherinMo:** it's scary

**JeffC:** But you know... this goes back to an earlier discussion about email... and how

admins outlaw it because "something bad" might happen. Oh... the porn industry didn't care or know, necessarily... they just buy up expired domains with high hit counts.

**CatherinMo:** So, filtering is good

**SummerL:** when it works

**LoriAM:** So, how do classroom teachers handle this in their classrooms without filtering?

**JeffC:** My argument is that we should not ban a tool because something bad \*might\* happen. We should find ways to open up avenues. Like "chat" for example. Virtually all K-12 districts ban it... but hey... even places like TI2 are banned... is that the way it \*should\* be?

**CatherinMo:** it can be restricting for us as teachers, yet necessary at the same time

**DonnaH:** no...its not...because in that case? it would've gone right through, since it'd already been "accepted" a kid safe site

**JeffC:** Filtering is a poor solution... and could be much better.

**SummerL:** we have to teach kids what to do when they open a site that isn't appropriate and how to deal with things they see on the internet

**DonnaH:** just like what we'd do in real life.

**JeffC:** Well... that is where my argument for .sex or .xxx domains remains strong. If all porn had to register on those domains, then filtering could work quite easily. The trouble is... that it's everywhere... which means that districts have felt forced to filter way too much.

**CatherinMo:** Is that our job or the parents?

**DonnaH:** What do we do when a stranger approaches a child on the street?

**DerekW:** at my district we block everything because it takes too many hours to block just some sites, it is easier to make blanket blocks

**JeffC:** My point exactly Derek. And frankly... that's wrong.

**DonnaH:** how do we explain those \*ahem\* seedier parts of town?

**DonnaH:** the internet is NO different from real life.

**DerekW:** Why don't port sites go to the .xxx domains, too much money in porn?

**DonnaH:** too easy for adults to block?

**DonnaH:** I think that would be an ideal solution...but there would still be sites that could have pornographic content and not be a "porn" site.

**DerekW:** If it becomes easier to block that, to me, is an argument in favor. Also, it would open up all kinds of possibilities for education if we are not scared of what might happen

**JeffC:** I think that porn doesn't feel that it needs to go to .xxx ...because no one is legislating for it. I argued for it... but of course, Congress didn't want something that might easily get thrown out in court, or be argued on "freedom of speech" grounds. They sort of chickened out on the legislation.

**DonnaH:** for example... an exhibitionist housewife...a few nude pics...but not "porn".

**DonnaH:** and nudists consistently swear that what they do is not porn (its not) but it IS nudity.

**DonnaH:** so there IS that line there.

**DerekW:** we rate movies, why not web sites. That would allow blocking at different content levels

**CatherinMo:** and we wouldn't be able to take our students to a nudist colony and have to



explain that to them

**JeffC:** Yeah... well... I don't know how to define porn, but I know it when I see it!

**MarissaD:** witty boy.

**DonnaH:** because websites consistently change...people post...and there are no rules to posting.

**JeffC:** Wow... I didn't know that nudist colonies were in your curriculum, Catherine!  
Where do you teach? ;-)

**CatherinMo:** I do not think the internet is the same as the real world. Kids can be exposed to a lot more on the internet in a matter of five minutes than in the real world in a week

**DerekW:** That's for sure

**DonnaH:** (she was being facetious)

**DonnaH:** depends on where you live, Catherin:)

**DonnaH:** I have some students who could probably teach me a thing or two...

**DonnaH:** (that's saying something)

**JeffC:** BTW... I have quite a few links on Internet Safety at my bookmarks  
<http://www.mybookmarks.com/public/coops> ...and oh yeah... if you see any links to porn sites there... let me know!

**DonnaH:** (and on that note)

**CatherinMo:** true, but I don't think EVERYTHING is our job

**DonnaH:** our time is just about up...any last comments?

**MarissaD:** thank you, Donna. Nice meeting you all.

**SummerL:** thank you Donna

**DonnaH:** absolutely, Catherin...but it helps to be aware of what parents should be telling their children as well.

**BJ:** The next Tech in the Classroom discussion is September 22

**CatherinMo:** Nice meeting everyone, thanks for everyone help in the beginning