

Internet Terms

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Anti-virus Software that protects a computer from malicious code.

Attachment A data file sent from one computer to another along with an e-mail or an instant message.

Buddy List Instant message addresses of favorite users. List enabled designated users to know when their “buddy” is online so that both can easily communicate.

Bulletin Boards Message boards, public areas on the Internet where messages or comments can be posted for other board members to read and reply to. (old)

Chat Room A virtual room, or gathering place, for Internet users with shared interests to congregate and converse.

Code Written instructions in a computing language.

Copyright The exclusive legal rights to reproduce, publish, and sell things produced by the person who owns the copyright.

Grooming Process that online predators use to build false trust in order to meet them face to face.

Cyberspace Virtual Internet community in which real people interact through electronic means.

Download To copy information (data) from the Internet.

File The specific location of data within a computer record.

File Extensions The three or more letters at the end of a file name (eg: .exe, .jpg, and .doc) defining the file “type,” such as a text file, executable file, database file, or graphic file.

Flame To send a mean or hurtful electronic message.

FW Forward—informs the recipient a redirected message has been sent to them. The sender is not the author and, therefore, is suspicious.

Firewall Set of related hardware and software programs designed specifically to protect a computer or computer network from unauthorized external use.

Hacker A person who uses the Internet to break into a computer or computer network.

Hacking Gaining illegal or unauthorized access to a computer file or network.

Identifying Information Personal information that can be used by online predators to distinguish you from another person and possibly find you in real life (e.g.: name, gender, age, etc.).

Identity Theft When someone uses your personal info (e.g.: Social Security #, credit card #) to steal

your identity for illegal purposes. The fastest-growing crime in the U.S.

IM Instant Messaging—Real time Internet communication. A “private chat room.”

Intellectual Property Materials protected by copyright laws including songs, movies, software and books.

ISP Internet Service Provider—Vendor that provides Internet access to its customers.

Looping Website code that does not allow a visitor to exit. Feature of many adult Internet sites.

Malicious code Intentionally destructive computer program (eg: viruses, worms, and Trojan horses).

Netiquette Blend of “network” and “etiquette” describing the informal code of Internet conduct.

Parental Controls Special features or software packages that enable restricts access to Internet sites.

Phishing Phishing attacks use “spoofed” e-mails and fraudulent websites designed to fool recipients into divulging personal financial data (see “Spoofs/Spoofing”).

Piracy Theft to produce counterfeit copyrighted software and other material.

Plagiarism Stealing someone else’s work and pretending it’s yours.

Posting Placing a message or photo to an online message board or website.

Screen name Online name or nickname. An alias used in Cyberspace.

SPAM Mass mailing or posting of messages. Also known as Internet junk mail.

Spoofs/Spoofing Fake e-mail messages or web pages mimicking those of legitimate businesses in order to trick you into providing personal information (identity theft).

Trojan Horse A malicious code that appears harmless yet launches a virus or worm.

URL defined as Universal/Uniform Resource Locator, is another name for a Web address. The URL is located at the top of a web page and generally begins with http/www.

Virus Executable code (computer program) that infects or attaches itself to other executable code (computer programs) in order to cause destructive computer events.

Worm Self-propagating computer virus embedded in a file.