SAFE-SI Project – Safer Use of the Internet in Slovenia

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Internet is…

- Universal information source
- Work
- Community
- Lots of fun
- … A heap of junk

virtual?

- Internet *is real* world
  - real world contains real annoyances and dangers

Safety concerns (for children)

- Illegal & harmful content
- Meeting "harmful people" online
- Abuse of personal information
- Commercialism (child targeted marketing)
- Internet fraud
- Unwanted email (spam) & viruses
- Online gaming and gambling
- Bullying
- …

- New technology in our lives
  - before: adults got new toy, gradually they'd give it to their children as well (with restrictions)
  - now: children grow with internet, gradually their parents join in

- We don't consider it "real"
  - In the safety of our room we don't feel exposed to the world

≣ Safe or secure?

– "Security" ~ "firewall"

– "Safety" ~ "content filtering"

  • Anti-virus & anti-spam SW

≣ Computer and network security is inseparable from internet "safety"

– Spam carry viruses which explore security flaws and in turn produce spam; both can carry or enable access to unwanted content

- CERT network
- "Abuse" services (ISP)

- EU: Safer Internet Action Plan
  - Hotlines – fighting illegal content (INHOPE)
  - Awareness nodes – INSAFE network
  - Tackling illegal and harmful content
    - Filtering & rating
    - Self regulation
  - Promoting a safer environment

- NREN plays a role in educating the internet community
  - Often runs CERT service
- More NREN's are servicing schools in Europe
  - Content hosting – (more) reliable sources
  - Reliable email service
    - Efficient virus and spam filtering
  - Videoconferencing, access to MM content
    - Some NREN's register quality content providers
  - Intermediate service level between schools and government

- National awareness node in Slovenia (www.safe.si)
- **Aim**: raising awareness about internet safety and security in Slovenian society as a whole
- **Target groups**: educators, parents and children
- **Partners:**
  Faculty of social sciences (University of Ljubjana)
  - Continued research of internet usage in Slovenia
  - Experience with European projects

  Arnes
  - Connecting >90% schools in Slovenia
  - History of safety-related activities

- Disseminating key awareness messages to all target groups
  - Production and distribution of materials
  - Safety events
    - Safer Internet Day
    - Storytelling contest
- Help exchange experience and best practice
- Safety issues in teacher training seminars
- Help building a "safe content network"

- Raising awareness means public campaigns
- Media love scary stories (so do consumers)
- Need to get to the media…

- Negative effect: fearing and reducing the use of internet and new communication technologies

- Awareness raising should promote positive use
- Need collaboration from all stakeholders
  - Government, NGO's, consumer protection and child welfare organizations, industry…

- Defining "harmful" is impossible (even "illegal" is tough)
  - Taking into account legal and cultural differences
- Protecting individual rights and freedom
- Importance of content evaluation
  - Source criticism
- Content filtering
  - Protection or censorship?
- Know your censor
  - and hope he is a friend or at least responsible

- "Internet safety" – just old troubles in a new form
- Technology is neither the problem nor the solution
  - It is a tool, can't make social judgements
- Awareness projects inform and promote safer use of online technologies to empower the users

  - SID 2006 suggestion: children teach parents 👍
  - In the era of information society we promote human communication