Beyond the Schoolyard: Cyber-Bullies©

Presented by

Robert Hugh Farley MS
Farley International®
Consultant in Crimes against Children
10 South LaSalle Street
Suite 1420
Chicago, IL USA 60603
Tel: 847-236-9134
Email: farleyintl@hotmail.com
Web page: www.farleyintl.com

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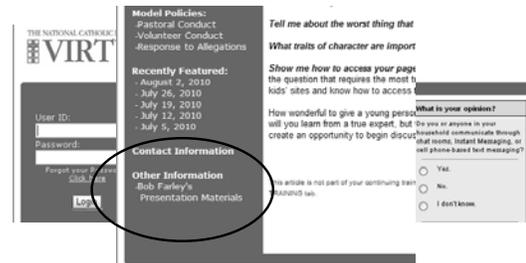September 29 and 30, 2011

Beyond the Schoolyard:
Cyber-Bullies ©

Download your copy of the seminar handout materials online at www.virtus.org

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Commanding Officer (Retired)
Child Exploitation Unit
Chicago, IL USA

Bully – a young hoodlum who revels in making peoples lives a misery during school years.

online urban dictionary

Bullies can be girls or boys

Some bullies attack their victims physically such as shoving, slapping or punching while other bullies use verbal insults or psychological control to torment their victims.

Bullying – is repeated acts over time that involves a real or perceived imbalance of power with the more powerful child or group attacking those who are less powerful.

U.S. Department of Justice

Bullying may also be a "tradition" in some school settings where older students or certain groups of students feel superior to the younger students

Where bullying was once considered a childhood rite of passage, bullies can make a school a place of fear. Children who are bullied are often afraid to eat in the cafeteria or even to go to school.

Studies have shown that while envy or resentment may be motives for bullying there is little evidence to suggest that bullies suffer from any deficit in self esteem – As this would make it somewhat difficult to bully

However, bullying can also be used as a tool to conceal shame, anxiety or to boost self esteem. By demeaning others, the abuser himself or herself often feels empowered.

Victims of bullying often suffer anxiety, loneliness, depression and a lack of self esteem

Victims of bullying are not always unpopular loners

Parents and educators are now dealing with tweens and teens who are the "always connected" generation.

As a result we are now dealing with a non-traditional approach to bullying.

Cyber-bullying – is when the Internet, cell phones or other electronic devices are used to send or post text or images intended to hurt or embarrass another person.

National Crime Prevention Council

Computer Webcam and "Real Time" Problems for Children

- **google.com**
- **skype.com**
- **iChat**
- **ooVoo.com**

Unlike traditional bullying, electronic or cyber-bullies can remain virtually anonymous using temporary email accounts, pseudonyms in chat rooms, anonymous proxy servers, instant messaging programs, cell-phone text messaging, and other Internet or electronic means to mask their identity. This perhaps frees the cyber-bully from the normative or the social constraints of their behavior.
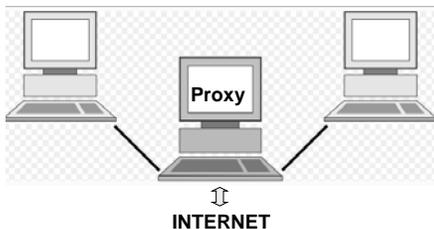
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Protecting God's Children for Adults

Child Molesters, Anonymous Proxy Servers, and Spyware

By Robert Hugh Farley, M.S.

Introduction

Proxy Server
- **Keeps computers behind it anonymous**
- **Scans inboard content for malware**
- **Logs internet usage**

Proxy

⇕

INTERNET

Anonymous Proxy Server
- **Access blocked Internet sites**
- **Hides your IP address**
- **Surf anonymously**

INTERNET   Anonymous Proxy Server

myspace.

facebook

Google

anonymous proxy server

Google Search   I'm Feeling Lucky

Advanced Search
Language Tools

Make Google my homepage

Anonymous Proxy Server Types
- .PHP – Use for surfing without login
- .CGI – Use for surfing that requires login
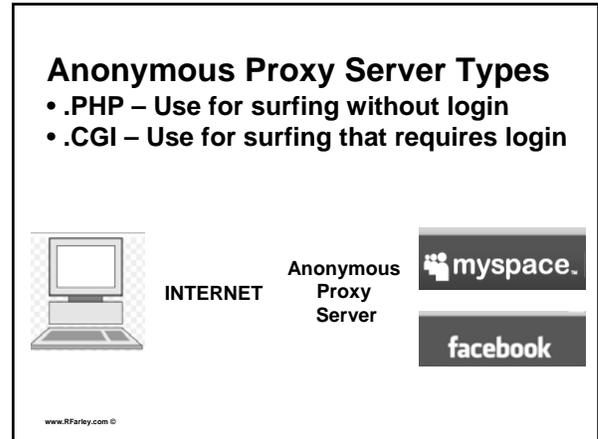
INTERNET   **Anonymous Proxy Server**   myspace.

facebook

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www.spectorsoft.com

Our Spy Software can Secretly Record Email, Chat, Instant Messages...even Passwords!

What Can Our Software Do?   Why Buy Software From Us?   Featured Product Spector PRO

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Cyber-bullies might be braver when utilizing electronic technology to carry out their hostile and intimidating behavior because it takes less nerve to express hurtful comments when utilizing a cell phone keypad or a computer keyboard.

Another problem is the inseparability of the victim's "always connected" cell phone, making the child a continuous target for victimization. As the result, cyber-bullying can penetrate the walls of a home, usually a place where victims could seek refuge from the traditional forms of bullying.

Types of Cyber-bullying

Internet
- Cruel instant computer messaging
- Harassing, threatening or insulting emails
- Creating a social networking site in order to mock certain students
- Posting humiliating, "photo-shopped" or digitally modified photos of students

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Child Pornography Defenses

Are they real children?

- **Original vs. Airbrushed pre-digital photos**
- **Morphing**
- **Photo shopping**
- **Pseudo photos**

Types of Cyber-bullying

Internet
- **Pretending to be someone else by using someone's online screen name**
- **Verbally abusing someone on an online gaming site or an avatar based website**

WoW – World of Warcraft

Massively multiplayer online role-playing game
- **MMORPG**
- **11.5 million monthly PAID subscribers (2009)**
- **Players control a character - avatar within a game world**

Direct vs. Indirect Methods of Cyber-bullying

Direct
- **Sending cyber-bullying messages directly to the victim**

Indirect
- **Using others to cyber-bully the victim**
- **With or without the accomplice's consent**

Types of Cyber-bullying

Internet
- **Flaming – which is posting offensive messages or so called "flames" within online discussion forums, the IRC or the various newsgroups**

Types of Cyber-bullying

Cell phone
- **Harassing telephone calls**
- **Threatening or insulting text messages**
- **Surreptitiously taking cell phone photos or videos and then posting them on the Internet or a social networking site**

Types of Cyber-bullying

Cell phone
- Forwarding "private" photos or videos to other students
- Sexting – is the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically, primarily between cell phones

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Child Pornography
Child Abuse Images

Defined – Visual depiction of a minor (18) engaged in sexually explicit conduct or the lewd exhibition of the genitals

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In a 2008 cyber-bullying study 10% of school district respondents reported they had been cyber-bullied in the previous 30 days while over 17% reported being cyber-bullied at least once in their lifetime.

Bullying Beyond the Schoolyard,
Hinduga & Patchin

In a 2010 Johnson Institute of Ethics bullying study of 43,321 teens, 47% of the respondents reported they had been bullied at least once while 50% reported having bullied, teased or taunted someone at least once.

USA Today,
10/26/10

What is the School's Role in Protecting Students from Cyber-Bullies?

What is the Schools Role?

- Educate the students regarding the many implications of electronic harassment
- Be proactive – Require that student cell phones be left in school lockers

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What is the Schools Role? (cont.)

- **Establish an Acceptable Use of Technology Policy (AUTP) regarding student internet access that shall include, but not be limited to: parental consent for student internet use, teacher supervision of the use and auditing procedures to determine whether the technology is being employed for threatening, abusive or obscene use**

What is the Schools Role? (cont.)

The AUTP shall identify:
- **Digital Etiquette – electronic standards of conduct**
- **Digital Access – Norms of electronic participation**

What is the Schools Role? (cont.)

- **Don't transmit pornographic, obscene or sexually explicit material**
- **Don't transmit threatening, abusive or sexually explicit language**
- **Don't access, copy or transmit another's messages without permission**

What is the Schools Role? (cont.)

The AUTP shall <u>also</u> identify:
- **Guidelines for social networking, texting, IM and phone interactions between staff and students**

What is the Schools Role? (cont.)

- **Add a provision to the school's "Student Policy Manual" reserving the right to discipline a student for any type of technology related incident, for example involving social networking sites or cyber-bullying <u>on or off school property</u>. Then discuss the policy provision with the school attorney**

What is the Schools Role? (cont.)

- **Enlist the assistance of the School Resource Officer (SRO) or the Police Department's Juvenile Officer**
- **The best school cyber-bully intervention and prevention model is threefold:**

School Bullying Intervention Model

- **School wide-level Interventions – A survey of bullying problems at the school, increased supervision, school wide assemblies, and teacher in-service training to raise the awareness of children and school staff regarding bullying.**
- **Classroom-level Interventions – The establishment of classroom rules against bullying, regular class meetings to discuss bullying at school, and meetings with all parents.**
- **Individual-level Interventions – Discussions with students identified as cyber-bullies and the victims of cyber-bullies.**

The Initial Conversation with the Cyber-bully and the Parents

The Initial Conversation

- **The student's discipline file should include: computer screen captures, message logs, photos, or any evidence that will demonstrate the seriousness of the student's behavior and its impact on the victim and the school**
- **Explain what cyber-bullying is an why it is not acceptable – Student Policy Manual**
- **You may first have to explain electronic technology and the Internet to the parents!!**

The Initial Conversation (cont.)

- **Talk with the student about the impact of bullying – Try to get them to understand what it is like being bullied**
- **Make it clear what the school rules are on cyber-bullying and the consequences**
- **Have the student acknowledge that what was done was a violation of school rules**
- **Discuss what the student thinks might help them to stop bullying in the future**

The Initial Conversation (cont.)

- **Inform the parents that the police may have to be notified of the incident by the school**
- **Inform the parents that the police may be notified by the victim's family**
- **Increase the Internet or electronic communication supervision of the student**
- **NO school Internet access**
- **NO cell phone on school property**

What should parents do if your child has been the victim of a cyber-bully?

What Should a Parent Do ?

- Refrain from the knee jerk reaction of immediately banning a victim's access to instant messaging, email, social networking sites a cell phone or the Internet – You punish the victim not the offender
- Talk with your children and caution them about opening emails, text messages, etc. from people that they don't know

What Should a Parent Do ? (cont.)

- If your child receives a text message, IM or an email that is hurtful, tell them to NEVER respond to it – Save it to a folder and tell a trusted adult or a parent
- Internet Service providers can often block cyber-bullies
- If a child has been threatened the police should be notified immediately – "Child Predator Protection 101"

What Should a Parent Do ? (cont.)

Notifying the Police
- What kind of threat? (direct or indirect)
- What was said exactly?
- What type of technology was used?
- How often has the threat occurred?
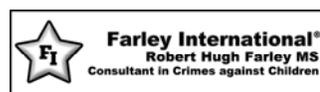- Do you know who is responsible?

Stopping Bullying

- Parents
- Family
- School system
- Community

MAKING A COMPLAINT – NCMEC
www.missingkids.com
1-800-843-5678

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10 So. LaSalle Street, Suite 1420
Chicago, IL 60603 USA
847-236-9134
Email farleyintl@hotmail.com
Web Page www.rfarley.com