

Navigating Social Networking

Internet and Cellphone Safety

Devices with Access: cellphones, tablets, computers, eReaders (Kindle, Nook), iPods, SmartPhones, Nintendo DSi, PlayStation, Wii, Xbox, etc.

Digital Footprint: A *digital footprint* is a collection of activities and behaviors recorded when an entity (such as a person) interacts in a digital environment. It may include the recording of activities such as system login and logouts, visits to a web-page, accessed or created files, or emails and chat messages, social networking activity, photos or videos posted online, and blogs, comments or original writing posted online.

Email Accounts:

Yahoo! Family Account (<http://safely.yahoo.com/>)

Costs 50 cents to activate, very safe (almost zero spam), linked with parent account (ie, parent account is notified of password change and has complete control of account information and privacy settings), for children 13 and under.

Gmail Account (<http://www.gmail.com>)

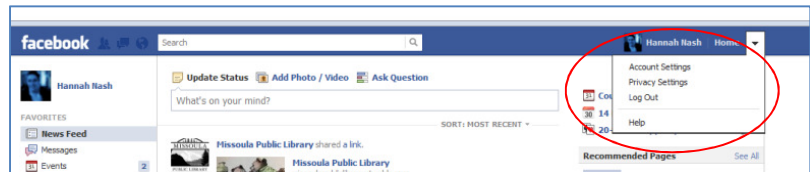
Free to activate, high-functioning spam filters.

Social Networking:

Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com>)

Most popular social network in the world.

Privacy information and Account Settings are always changing; it is recommended that you review your settings every 3-6 months to make sure that you are “sharing” at your comfort level.



MyYearBook (<http://www.myearbook.com/>)

Smaller social network, popular with teens. Focused mostly on chat services, games, and a virtual economy.



Twitter (<http://twitter.com/>)

Text-based commentary and social blogging limited to 140 characters per post.



Online Resources:

ConnectSafely (<http://www.connectsafely.org/>)

Parent's Guide to Facebook (<http://www.connectsafely.org/pdfs/fbparents.pdf>)

Netsmartz (<http://www.netsmartz.org/Parents>)

Safe Kids (<http://www.safekids.com/>)

That's Not Cool (<http://www.thatnotcool.com/>)

Stop Cyberbullying (<http://www.stopcyberbullying.org/>)

Definitions:

Malware/Virus—essentially the same thing; malicious infections that slow down performance and attempt to “mine” your personal data for use in Spam email, targeted advertising, credit card number theft, identity theft, etc.

Phishing—a way of attempting to acquire information such as usernames, passwords, and credit card/financial details by masquerading as a trustworthy entity in an electronic communication.

Spam—bulk, unsolicited electronic messages and mail. Most email programs have “Spam Filters” to help block email addresses of spammers.

Cyberbullying—the use of Internet and other electronic devices to cause emotional harm to other people, in a deliberate, repeated, and hostile manner.

Sexting—the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photographs, primarily between mobile phones.