



While the Internet has clearly provided our children with incredible opportunities to learn and grow, it has also become a one-stop-shop for sexual predators. Websites like Myspace, facebook, friendster and other social networking sites are enormously popular among youth, which translates to equally as popular among those who prey on our children.

One in seven children in the United States receives a sexual solicitation or approach while online. One in 33 children receive an aggressive sexual solicitation (invitation to physically meet, phone call, or something sent to them in the mail), and only 25% of these children reported these incidents to their parents.

At the Southern Oregon High-Tech Crimes Task Force one of our fundamental missions is to identify and arrest those individuals in our area who are using technology to exploit our children. We realize that the online sexual exploitation of children is not something we can simply “arrest” our way out of; there are simply too many predators and too few law enforcement agents investigating these types of crimes. It is our belief that we must focus on public education and prevention in an attempt to eliminate or significantly reduce the number of child victims on the Internet to begin with.

You probably teach your child to look both ways before crossing the street and not to talk to strangers, but what do you tell them about the Internet? Do you know enough about technology to adequately supervise your children’s activity? Do your children feel comfortable talking to you about cyber bullying or online sexual exploitation?

If you are interested in learning more about how to protect your child online, please visit our website at [www.HighTechCops.com](http://www.HighTechCops.com) and check out our public education events. We routinely conduct classes on Internet safety for parents throughout the valley and all our classes are free. Our next class is scheduled on February 26<sup>th</sup> 2008 at the Central Point City Hall.

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Task Force Commander