



National Computer Board

Mauritian Computer Emergency Response Team

Enhancing Cyber Security in Mauritius

Cybersecurity Guideline for Youngsters



CERT-MU

**National Computer Board
Mauritius**

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1.0 Background

It is the right of every child to be taught how to stay safe online. Almost everyone is connected to the Internet these days, including the vast majority of teens and a growing number of young children. Whether by using a smartphone, accessing the web, watching a video, texting or playing a game, it is highly probable that you are connected. The online world brings tremendous benefits to young people, but it can also be a place of inappropriate conduct and content. There are bullies, predators, hackers, and scammers that may pose a threat to young people and others.

2.0 What are the risks?

The online world has many cyber risks for youngsters to recognize. The following are some of the cyber risks:

- **Cyberbullying** is bullying that happens online. It can happen in an email, a text message, an app, an online game, or on a social networking site.
- **Phishing/Identity Theft** is when a scam artist sends text, email, or pop-up messages in a browser to get people to share their personal information. They can then use that information to commit identity theft.
- **Sexting** is the sending or forwarding of sexually explicit photos, videos, or messages from a mobile phone. In addition to risking their reputations, friendships, and safety, this could be an illegal activity.
- **Social Networking** can help kids connect with family and friends, but it can invite danger if not used appropriately. Sharing too much information, posting pictures, videos or words can damage the reputation, hurt someone else, or invite a predator to contact the user. Once something is online, it may not easily be removed. Oversharing may be leveraged by online criminals to facilitate identity theft.

3.0 Protect Yourself Online

3.1 General Safety Precautions

Talk to an adult you trust before you go online. For example, your parent or guardian.



An adult can talk to you about:

- what you can do online



- what you should not do online



- what websites or apps are safe to use
- what posts, photos and videos are safe to share



When you go online make sure an adult is around so you can

- Ask questions



- Get help



Talk to your parent or guardian before you

- Buy anything online



- Download or install something

– Download or install means you choose something online to save to your computer.



3.2 Online Privacy

You must keep your personal information safe online.



Personal information can be your

- address
- phone number
- password



In order to keep your personal information safe online, you must

- not let other people use your accounts and
- not give out personal information.



3.3 Making online friends

You might make a friend online.



It is safer not to meet them in person.

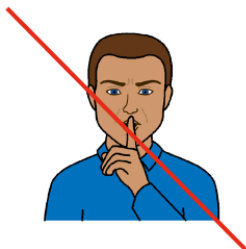


An online friend should

- talk to you in a nice way
- respect you
- not make you feel bad or uncomfortable



not ask you to do things you do not want to do. For example, keep a secret.



If an online friend asks you to do something you do not want to do

- tell an adult you trust



- report the person or message to the social media service

–A social media service might be Facebook, TikTok, Instagram or Snapchat.



- block the person to stop them from being able to contact you again

–Block means you stop the person from being able to contact you on the social media service.



You might need to tell the police about your online friend



3.4 Viewing inappropriate contents

Talk to an adult if you see something online that you do not like or understand. For example

- photos or videos that are violent or sexual
- messages that are mean to you or tease you
- messages that make you uncomfortable



Do not answer messages that make you feel uncomfortable.



An adult can help you report bad messages to CERT-MU

CERT-MU can help you

- get support
- get rid of bad messages.



4.0 References

- <https://www.connectsafely.org>
- <https://www.zdnet.com>
- <https://www2.ed.gov>
- <https://www.cisecurity.org>
- <https://www.esafety.gov.au>