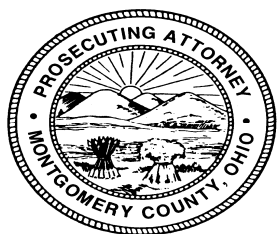


CYBERSPACE DICTIONARY



The Internet brings to us a new and innovative way to communicate – that includes a new language! It is important to know the lingo! Help keep kids safe online by reviewing these terms and how they are used to manipulate kids online.

Address

A web site's location. Sometimes address is used as shorthand for an individual's personal email address.

Attachment

A file that arrives with and is "attached" to an email. You will know if an email has an attachment with it because it has a little icon of a paperclip appearing with the email. Do not open the attachment by clicking on it. If you know who the sender is right click on it and save it on your desktop and run a virus scan to be sure it is virus free before you open it. If you don't know who it is from them don't open it and delete it.

Block

An instruction given to your computer **not to allow** certain types of activity and emails on your computer, as well as stopping access to particular web pages or chatrooms.

Browser

The address bar which allows you to use the world wide web. The two best known ones are Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator. Another called Foxfire or Mozilla is becoming popular.

Cable modem

A special device which allows you to access the internet using cable TV.

Compact disc (CD)

Most modern software is now supplied on a CD. CD writers (and re-writers) are very common. This allows you to copy large volumes of material. This can increase the risk of a virus entering your system and also increase the risk of potentially undesirable material coming into your home.

Chat

A means of communicating with people more or less instantaneously by typing messages which then appear on your computer screen, and are transmitted across the internet to be read by everyone else participating in the chat at that time. The conversation continues through the exchange of messages. Chat can either be moderated or unmoderated. In the latter case the conversation will be completely unsupervised and records of it are generally not kept. It is very easy to fake an identity when participating in a chat so be especially wary.

Chatroom

A place where chat happens on the internet.

Chatting

Taking part in a chat.

Click

Pressing on one of the buttons on a mouse to execute a command.

Computer network

A collection or series of computers that are connected to each other and generally can swap information very easily and rapidly.

Conference

Similar to a chat only a conference will probably be arranged for a certain time and on a certain subject. Chatrooms, by contrast, are running all the time and people dip in and out of them.

Cyberspace

Another way of referring to the internet.

Disc

There are several kinds of discs: ordinary floppies, which are plastic squares normally containing up to 1.4 megabytes of data (although newer versions can contain a great deal more). DVDs (digital versatile discs) have enormous storage capacities. Hard discs are generally inside a computer and store your programmes and data. These can be huge: their capacity is measured in gigabytes, ie in thousands of megabytes.

E-commerce

Buying and selling over the internet.

Electronic signature

A special, encrypted code that identifies you to the recipient of an email.

Encryption

Software that takes any computer-readable data and converts it into an unreadable code that can only be unscrambled and made readable again by someone with the correct key.

Email

A message sent over the internet. It can be sent only to one person or many. Unsolicited email is known as spam.

Email address

Your personal and unique address on the internet. It is often used as the basic means of identifying an internet user, eg when they subscribe to services or join in chats.

Filter

A means of preventing certain types of material from reaching your computer while allowing others from the same source. You may want to filter out websites that show adult or violent images, but allow sites that show only low levels.

Icon

An image which tells you about a specific function, eg a picture of a printer generally means that if you just click on that picture it will go into the print routine. These icons are alternatives to typing in often long-winded or difficult to remember commands.

Instant messaging (IM)

A form of chat. You can join a service and then whenever you log on to the internet your name will appear in a central register. You can then be contacted by anyone on the register although you will, of course, have to agree to accept their call. With some of the more popular forms of instant messaging you join a club and all members of the club are notified when any other member logs on.

Internet

A global network of connected computers.

Internet café

Public places where computers are connected to the internet. Many places will let you use the machines without having to buy any food or drink. Rarely do these places have filtering or blocking software in place and the levels of supervision and support available can vary enormously.

Internet service provider (ISP)

A commercial company that provides internet access. They charge a monthly fee ... you just pay for the phone calls. Some of the larger ISPs include substantial resources and areas specially designed for children. Check out what is on offer.

Log on

To enter your password and gain access to a computer or a network.

Log off

To sign off from a computer or a network.

Minimize

Most programs allow you to minimize them, usually by clicking once on an icon in the top right-hand side of the screen. This allows you to have several different programmes running at once but it also allows you to rapidly hide something that might be on your screen that you don't want prying eyes to see. It's a way kids can switch between homework and games!

Moderated chatroom

A chatroom where, usually, an adult is present to make sure the conversations taking place there do not break the company's policies about online behavior. Some companies do not have a moderator in their chatrooms. They use software which looks for particular words. If the words appear a moderator is notified and goes to take a look. If someone in the chatroom is found to be breaking the rules usually they will first be warned and then, if they persist, they can be thrown out and barred. However someone who is barred can just create a new email address. This gives them a new internet identity and they can get back in.

Moderator

A person who polices and supervises a chatroom, or a newsgroup. Ask your internet service provider if they use moderators and, if they do, how they recruit and train, and what checks moderators go through before being taken on .

Modem

A device for connecting a computer to the telephone system so it can access the internet or other computers.

Mouse

A handheld device used for pointing and clicking as a means of issuing commands to a computer.

Net smart

Being aware of the potential pitfalls of the internet and how to avoid them, or deal with them. It's a modern equivalent of being streetwise.

Network

A collection or series of computers that are connected to each other and generally can swap information very easily and rapidly.

Newsgroups

Like an electronic bulletin board where people with common interests can keep in touch and up to date. You post to the newsgroup using email and you can often include attachments. Much of the illegal material on the net circulates through newsgroups.

Online

If you are online you are live on the internet.

Parental control software

Programs that allow parents or other responsible adults to control various aspects of how a particular computer or network might interact with the internet. Some internet service providers offer free parental control software to members.

Password

A code that gives you access to a computer or a network, or to some functions within a program. If anyone else discovers the password they can pretend to be you or they can override any security settings you might have put in place. Most parental control software uses passwords. If your child reaches a site which you have blocked it will not be visible to the child but you could, by entering the password, allow it to be seen. Obviously therefore, if your child learns the password, they can get through to the site you want to block.

PIN

Personal information number: the same as a password only usually in number form only.

Posting

A posting is a message of some kind, usually in the form of an email sent to a newsgroup or a chatroom.

Search engine

If you do not already know the address of a website you can use a search engine to find it for you. You can type the subject matter you're looking for, eg 'England.' Some search engines will give you more than you want, as they can bring back thousands of replies, including some which are very far from what you are likely to be looking for. There are specialist search engines specifically for children, eg Yahoooligans and other kids sites which tend only to search among child friendly sites.

Site

A specific location on the internet, generally a website.

Software

Otherwise known as a program, which allows your computer to perform certain tasks. Microsoft's Word, for example, is a piece of software which does word-processing.

Spam

Unsolicited and unwanted email. A high proportion of spam is pornographic and much of the rest is linked to financial scams of some kind.

Stranger danger

The risk that an unknown person, either an adult or a child, might do some harm to your children, generally through deceiving them or through some other kind of manipulation. In some of the more extreme cases on the internet, children have been persuaded to indulge in illegal sexual acts which they have photographed and sent to the strangers who asked them to do it in the first place. There have been cases where children have gone to meet people they have met on the internet, only to discover they were not who they claimed to be and were often a lot older. Some children have been raped following such encounters.

Subscribe

When you subscribe to something on the internet it is often free. You give your email address to a site, eg your favorite record club or shopping site, and they send you information about themselves or their activities, events and so on. This can be a valuable service but check to make sure that whoever you are giving your email address to will not then pass it on to third parties, as they will bombard you with offers for commercial goods and services you will never need or want.

Surf

When you are moving around between and within web sites you are surfing.

Surf smart

Being aware of the potential pitfalls of the internet and how to avoid them, or deal with them. It's a modern equivalent of being streetwise.

URL

An abbreviation for uniform resource locator, another way of saying address.

Usenet

This means the same as newsgroup.

Virus

A malicious piece of software which can do great damage to your computer or the programs on it. They often come as attachments to emails or on discs which might have been swapped, in a playground for instance. It is **very important** to use anti-virus software to prevent them getting into your system and to prevent you from passing them on to anyone else.

Web

The web, or the world wide web.

Web browser

The address bar on the Internet that allows you to use the world wide web. The two best known ones are Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator.

Web cam

A camera made specially to work with a computer. It can transmit still or video pictures, with or without sound, across the internet.

LEETSPEAK

- **Numbers are often used as letters.** The term "leet" could be written as "l337," with "1" replacing the letter L, "3" posing as a backwards letter E, and "7" resembling the letter T. Others include "8" replacing the letter B, "9" used as a G, "0" (zero) in lieu of O, and so on.
- **Non-alphabet characters can be used to replace the letters they resemble.** For example, "5" or even "\$" can replace the letter S. Applying this style, the word "leetspeek" can be written as "l33t5p33k" or even "!337\$p34k," with "4" replacing the letter A.
- **Letters can be substituted for other letters that may sound alike.** Using "Z" for a final letter S, and "X" for words ending in the letters C or K is common. For example, leetspeakers might refer to their computer "5x1llz" (skills).
- **Rules of grammar are rarely obeyed.** Some leetspeakers will capitalize every letter except for vowels (LiKe THiS) and otherwise reject conventional English style and grammar, or drop vowels from words (such as converting *very* to "vry").
- **Mistakes are often left uncorrected.** Common typing misspellings (typos) such as "teh" instead of *the* are left uncorrected or sometimes adopted to replace the correct spelling.
- **Non-alphanumeric characters may be combined to form letters.** For example, using slashes to create "/^/" can substitute for the letter M, and two pipes combined with a hyphen to form "|-|" is often used in place of the letter H. Thus, the word *ham* could be written as "|-|4/^."
- **The suffix "0rz" is often appended to words for emphasis or to make them plural.** For example, "h4xx0rz," "sk1llz0rz," and "pwnz0rz," are plural or emphasized versions (or both) of *hacks*, *skills*, and *owns*.

COMMON LEET WORDS, SOME INDICATING POSSIBLE ILLEGAL ACTIVITY:

- **"warez"** or **"w4r3z"**: Illegally copied software available for download.
- **"h4x"**: Read as "hacks," or what a malicious computer hacker does.
- **"pr0n"**: An anagram of "porn," possibly indicating the use of pornography.
- **"sploitZ"** (short for exploits): Vulnerabilities in computer software used by hackers.
- **"pwn"**: A typo-deliberate version of *own*, a slang term often used to express superiority over others that can be used maliciously, depending on the situation. This could also be spelled **"0Vn3d"** or **"pwn3d,"** among other variations. Online video game bullies use this term.
- **"kewl"**: A common derivation of "cool."
- **"m4d sk1llz"** or "mad skills": Refers to one's own talent. "m4d" itself is often used for emphasis.
- **"n00b," "noob," "newbie,"** or **"newb"**: Combinations synonymous with new user. Some leetspeakers view "n00b" as an insult and "newbie" as an affectionate term for new users.
- **"w00t"** or the smiley character **lol**: An acronym that usually means "We Own the Other Team," used to celebrate victory in a video game.
- **"roxx0rs"** Used in place of "rocks," typically to describe something impressive.
- **"d00d"**: Replaces the greeting or addressing someone as a "dude."
- **"joo"** and **"u"**: Used instead of "you." This is also commonly written as "j00" or "_|00."
- **"ph"**: often replaces "f," as in "phear" for "fear" (as in "ph34r my l33t skillz") and vice versa, such as spelling "phonetic" as "f0|\|371(."

KNOW THE LINGO!

AAK Alive And Kicking

AAR At Any Rate

AAS Alive And Smiling

ADN Any Day Now

AFAIK As Far As I Know

AFK A way From the Keyboard

AFN that's All For Now

AOTA All Of The Above

a/s/l or asl Age/Sex/Location - (used to ask a chatter their personal information)

AV Avatar - Graphical representation (a picture) often used in chat rooms to depict a person that is in the room and chatting.

b4 Before

BAK Back At Keyboard (I'm back)

BBL Be Back Later

BBS Be Back Soon

BCNU I'll Be Seeing You.

b/f Boyfriend (also shown as bf, B/F, or BF)

BEG Big Evil Grin

BFN Bye For Now

BMA Bite My A**

boot To get kicked out of a chat room, or have to restart the computer because you couldn't talk in the chat room anymore.

BR Best Regards

BRB Be Right Back

BRH Be Right Here

BSEG Big S**t Eatin Grin

BTA But Then Again....

BTW By The Way

btw BeTWeen you and me ...

chat room A web page where people gather using software that allows them to talk to one another in real time.

CRS Can't Remember S**t

CU See You - also posted as **cya**

CUS Can't Understand S**t (stuff)

CNP Continued in Next Post (seen more on message boards than chat)

CP Chat Post

CUL8R See You Later

CUOL See You On Line

CYA See Ya

dd, ds, dh Darling or Dear: Dear Son, Dear Daughter, or Dear Husband. Usually exchanged in family chats.

DDSOS Different Day, Same Old S**t

DEGT Don't Even Go There (I don't want to talk about it)

DIKU Do I Know You?

DIS Did I Say

D/L, DL, d/l, dl Downloading, or Download it.

EG E vil Grin

EM E-Mail

EMA E-mail Address (example: ?ema or ema? = what is your email address)

EOT End Of Thread (meaning end of discussion)

ez or **EZ** easy (one of the really old ones)

F2F Face To Face

FAQ F requently Asked Q uestion

FISH First In Still Here (someone who is on line TOO much)

FITB Fill In The Blanks

flame to insult someone. Used when a person asks a stupid question, or says something rude to irritate the users of a chat room or message board.

FOCL Falling Off Chair - Laughing

forum What today's message boards are called. Often using php as defining language to quickly write 'real time' messages and replies to a web site (or page)

FTS F*** This S***

fu f*** you (If you can't figure this one out, you shouldn't be on line)

FUBAR "Fouled" Up Beyond All Repair / Recognition

FUD Fear, Uncertainty, and Doubt

FWIW For What It's Worth

FYI For Your Information

GA Go Ahead

GAL Get A Life

gest Gesture ... a small multimedia file played over the internet, usually expressing an emotion or comment.

g/f Girlfriend (also shown as gf, G/F, or GF)

GFN Gone For Now

GGOH Gotta Get Outta Here

GMTA Great Minds Think Alike

GR Gotta Run

GR&D Grinning, Running, and Ducking.

GTR Got To Run

GTRM Going To Read Mail (leaving chat room to check email)

H&K Hugs and Kisses

hack person who breaks into software, or disrupts a chat room.

HAGD Have A Good Day

HAGO Have A Good One

Halsoft Name of a company that purchased the brand of Chat that Excite offered, now a pay as you go service.

HB Hurry Back

Hosts Refers to the people that are running the chat room, they usually have the ability to kick a person off due to rude behavior.

HTH Hope That Helps

huggles Hugs

IAC In Any Case

IB I'm Back

IC I See

IDN I Don't kNow

IDK I Don't Know

IDTS I Don't Think So

IANAL I'm Am Not A Lawyer (expect an uninformed opinion)

IC I See

ICQ I Seek You. A computer program used to communicate instantly over the Internet.

ILU or ILY I Love You

IM I nstant **M**essage

IMHO In My Humble Opinion (or In My Honest Opinion)

IMO I n **M**y Opinion

IOH I'm Out of Here

IOW In Other Words

IRL I n **R**eal **L**ife

IYO In Your Opinion

JAS Just A Second

JIC Just In Case

JK **J**ust **K**idding

JMO Just My Opinion

JW Just Wondering

k, K, or kk O. K.

KIT Keep In Touch

L8R Later (an early one, kind of outdated with current 'young geeks')

LMAO L aughing **M**y **A**ss **O**ff

LFFAO Laughing My F***(freaking) Ass Off

LOL Laughing **O**ut **L**oud

LTNS Long Time **N**o **S**ee

LTS Laughing **T**o ones **S**elf

LY I Love Ya.

LYL Love You Lots

Message Board A web page where people write comments, and those comments are then added to that web-page for others to view. Used to carry on conversation, request information, and relay messages.

MUG Refers to a new user of that chat program, goes back to Excite VP days when the AV (or icon) that represented someone new was a picture of a coffee mug.

NE1 Anyone

newbie A person who is new to an area or technology. Also seen as nube, nooby, nubie, nb, etc.

NFW No Feasible (or F***ing) Way

NIMBY Not In My Back Yard

nm, or NM Never Mind

NP, np N o Problem

NRN 1. No Response Necessary
2. Not Right Now

NT No Thanks

OBTW Oh, By The Way.

OIC Oh, I See

OF Old Fart, someone who has been around for a while.

OJ or OK Only Joking or Only Kidding

OL the Old Lady

OM the Old Man

OMG Oh My Gosh (although it's usually used with the Lords name in place of "gosh")

OT Off Topic

oth or OTH Off The Hook: Something is really popular, or hot. Very exciting.

otr or OTR Off The Rack: Saying that something is outside the ordinary.

OTE Over The Edge (beyond common sense or beyond good taste)

OTOH On The Other Hand ...

OTOMH Off the Top of My Head ...

OTW On The Way ... I've sent a file to you, it's "On the way"

P911 My parents are in the room. P=Parents, and 911=emergency, in other words either drop the subject, or watch the language.

PANS Pretty Awesome New Stuff (often referring to computer technology)

PCMCIA Personal Computer Memory Cards International Association

PCMCIA People Can't Master Computer Industry Acronyms (slang)

PEBCAK Problem Exists Between Chair And Keyboard

peeps People. example: "There sure are a lot of peeps in this room" - meaning a lot of people are in the chat room.

peep this Hey, listen to this, I've got some interesting news.

PITA Pain In The Ass

PLZ Please

PMJI Pardon Me for Jumping In (when you enter into a new conversation)

poof when someone leaves a chat room, often seen as *poof* as in boy he *poofed* in a hurry.

POTS Plain Old Telephone Service

POS Parents are looking Over my Shoulder.

POTS Parents Over The Shoulder - (My parents are watching, I can't really talk)

PPL People

QT Cutie

RFC Request For Comments (used more in newsgroups, a page or pages that supply technical information)

rl or RL Real Life (as opposed to being online)

r m or RM Ready Made: pre-existing

ROFL Rolling On Floor, Laughing

ROTF Rolling On The Floor (laughing is implied)

ROTFLMAO Rolling On The Floor Laughing My Ass Off

ROTFLMFAO Rolling On The Floor Laughing My F(***) Ass Off

RSN Real Soon Now

r/t Real Time (also: RT, or rt)

RTFM Read The "Flippin" Manual (response to beginner question on net, chat, newsgroups, etc.)

RU aRe yoU?

SEG Shit Eating Grin

SH Same Here

SMS Short Message Service (more cell phones and pagers than chat rooms and the Internet)

SN Screen Name. The name or moniker selected by person in an IM or chat program. ex: My "SN" in vp was "-lone.wolf"

SNAFU Situation Normal , All "Fouled" Up

SO Significant Other

SOL Shit Out Of Luck

SOS Same Old S**t (stuff)

SOTA State Of The Art (latest technology)

SPST Same Place, Same Time

SSDD Same S**t, Different Day

STR8 Straight (can refer to sex, or DSTR8 as in Damn Straight)

STW Search The Web

SY Sincerely Yours

SYL See You Later

TAFN That's All For Now

TC Take Care

TFH Thread From Hell (a topic or discussion that won't stop - esp. newsgroups)

TGIF Thank **G**oodness **I**t's **F**riday

THX Thanks!

TIA Thanks **I**n **A**dvice

TM Text **M**essage (often refers to communications with text over cell phones)

TMI Too **M**uch **I**nfo. (information)

TNT 'Til **N**ext **T**ime

TPS That's **P**retty **S**tupid

TPTB The **P**owers That **B**e (can sometimes refer to the people that are running the chat room or server)

TRDMF Tears **R**unning **D**own **M**y **F**ace: Can be with either laughter, or due to sadness.

TS Tough **S**t**

TSFY Tough **S**t** **F**or **Y**ou

TTFN Ta-Ta **F**or **N**ow

TTTT These **T**hings **T**ake **T**ime

TTYL Talk **T**o **Y**ou **L**ater

TY Thank **Y**ou

TYT Take **Y**our **T**ime

TYVM Thank **Y**ou **V**ery **M**uch

VPPH Virtual **P**laces **P**age **H**ost

US You **S**uck

usa or USA **U**ntil **S**ides **A**che: Usually used with one of the laughter acronyms such as "lolusa" Laughing Out Loud Until my Sides Ache. I've also heard that some folks substitute ush for "Until Sides Hurt".
rotflolush = rolling on the floor, laughing out loud, until my sides hurt.

UV Unpleasant **V**isual

UW yo**U**'re **W**elcome

UY **U**p **Y**ours

vp or VP Virtual **P**laces: A brand of chat offered by Excite in the late 90s and early 2000.

WB **W**elcome **B**ack (you say this when someone returns to a chat room)

WC **W**el**C**ome

WEG Wicked Evil Grin

WEU What's Eating You?

WFM Works For Me

WIIFM What's In It For Me?

WTG Way To Go

WTF What The F**K

WT? What The ...? or Who the ...?

WTGP? Want To Go Private? (move to a private chat room)

WWJD What Would Jesus Do?

YAA Yet Another Acronym

YBS You'll Be Sorry

YL Young Lady

YM Young Man

YMMV Your Mileage May Vary

YR Yea, Right. (sarcastic)

ys You Stinker

YVW You're Very Welcome

YW You're Welcome

Emoticons: (symbols used to display feeling)

s, *S*, <s>, = smile	*g*, <g> = grin	xoxo = hugs and kisses	huggggggsssss = hugs
w, <w> = wink	*g*, = giggles	*k*, *K* = kiss	;-)~~~~~ = giving someone the raspberries.
(((((person)))))) = giving them a virtual hug.	\~/ = glass with a drink. (usually booze)	^5 = high five	?^ = What's Up?
/? = a cup of tea	[]> + Cup of coffee	@ @ @ = Cookies	@-/-- = a rose
:-) .. smile	;-) ... wink	<:- ... curious	:~) ... cute
:-(... sad	8-) ... wears glasses	:-} ... embarrassed	:-/ ... perplexed, confused
;-(- (...or ;`-(.... to cry	:-< ... pouting	>:-(... angry	0:-) ... angel
:- ... bored or no opinion	:-> ... grin/mischievous	-) ... dreaming	:-O ... shouting, or shocked
:-o ... talking, or surprised	>:- ... mad / angry	:-D ... big grin or laugh	=-:O ... scared
:-x ... keeping mouth shut	:o) ... smiles (w/nose)	:-)))))) ... lots of smiles	;-P ... sticking tongue out :P ... sticking tongue out
# 8 -) ... nerd, or person with glasses and crew cut.	&- (... crying	!:-) .. I have an idea	;- () ... person with a mustache
;-)~ ... sexy tongue - or drunk	;-) ... being cute	c["] ... coffee mug	[_]> ... another cup or mug
:-> ... grin/mischievous	<:- ... curious	- ... sound asleep	:-x .. I'm keeping my mouth shut

Another few side notes:

0 can be O or vice versa, (the letter and the number are often interchangeable)
 1 = won or one, (1dr = wonder)
 2 = too, to, or two,
 3 = the letter E, (so 's33 U' means See you)
 4 = for, four, or a prefix of suffix of 'fore. (b4 = before, 4warned = forewarned),
 8 is usually either a pair of eyes, glasses, or ate, although it gets used a lot for making pictures,
 9 is a good thing (he was dressed to the 9s means he was all dressed up),
 B = be,
 C = see, (IC means I see)
 G = gee,
 K = OK, (so k, or kk means I'm OK)
 M = am,
 N = in,
 O = oh,
 R = Are,
 U = You,
 g = grin,
 s = smile,