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Why You Should Monitor Your Child's Computer

By Chris McElroy

Every parent has an anxiety attack whenever they hear a report of a missing or abducted child in the news. They pray it never happens to them and rightly so because it is a parent's worst nightmare.

Unfortunately, teenagers do not always get that same attention or elicit the same feelings as the missing or abducted child. Teens are almost automatically considered runaways rather than missing children.

And teens that are reported as runaways do not grab people's attention. The police do not actively search for runaways. It is not a crime to run away from home.

However, in many cases when a teen is missing a crime has been committed. By the police not actively pursuing the conditions surrounding the teen's disappearance, the crime goes undetected and unpunished.

If some adult lures your teenager and they run away from home and you did not know they were talked into leaving, then the police will not know it either. The police will assume your teen is a runaway and will add it to all the other runaways to be on the lookout for, but will not actively pursue the case because they do not know a crime has been committed.

We all have seen Dateline NBC where they entrap guys who want to have sex with teenagers, then arrest them once they get to the rendezvous point. That's all well and good that they are out there hunting the hunters and preying on the predators. I applaud their effort.

However, that does nothing for the teen that is considered a runaway because no one knows she or he met someone on the Internet who talked them into running away from home.

The time has come for every parent who has a teenager who uses a computer to start monitoring his or her activities. Teens will scream about their privacy, but you need to know that if they do run away from home that they were lured away.

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You need to know and the police need to know because if they were talked into leaving by an adult, then a crime has been committed and the police can put more resources into finding them.

There is software that will allow you to not only block your children and teenagers from accessing inappropriate content on the web, it will also log everything your child or teen does on the computer so you have a record. That record includes online chatroom conversations, email, instant messaging, and websites visited.

The software will even send you a message on your cell phone or to your email whenever your child or teen accesses inappropriate content.

You cannot afford to let your child or teenager decide for themselves what is or is not ok to do on the web. The predators are smarter than they are no matter what they tell you. Your teenager may be smarter than you may when it comes to the computer, but you know what is or is not good for them

when it comes to their safety.

Do not be intimidated if you do not know a lot about computers. Do not let that be your excuse for not monitoring your children and teenagers. In the footer of this article you will find resources that can help you monitor everyone who uses your computer. I recommend you start doing it today before IU have to go out and search for your runaway or lured-away teen.

Chris McElroy actively searches for Missing Children and runaway teens. You can read more at

<http://www.kidsearchnetwork.org>

and

<http://www.runawayteens.org>

To monitor your child's computer,

we recommend

<http://www.onlinesafetyshield.com>

Monitoring Your Child's Computer For Their Safety

By Chris McElroy

What websites did your child visit this week? Did any of those websites contain porn, illegal content, or content that you would not allow your child to be exposed to?

What did your child receive in their email this week? Did someone from Bulgaria, Russia, or Thailand

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send them pornography? How about someone who lives even closer to you? What did they send your child?

Did anyone approach your child about sex in an Internet chat room this week? Did someone invite them to run away from home or to secretly meet with them offline?

Was your child approached through his or her Instant Messenger about sex this week?

You don't know? You hope not? You think that if it happened they would have told you about it? Or do you just think that none of that can happen to your child because you have some sort of content filter installed?

As a parent you have to be proactive. If you did not know the answers to those questions I mentioned above then your child is at risk of being taken advantage of by a child sex predator.

No, I am not just being an alarmist. I am not chicken little and the sky is not falling. However children are falling prey to online sex predators far too often.

Besides that, they are being exposed to pornography, inappropriate content, and even illegal content. If that does not concern you it should.

If your child is trading in pirated music, movies, and software, you can be sued for thousands of dollars. Do you really think saying, "You should not do that" is enough if there is a song or a movie they really want and they know you will never find out about it?

Child sex predators online are very, very smart. Smarter than your child. They can chat with your child for months gathering bits and pieces of personal information they can use to stalk or kidnap your child.

Spammers send out porn to every email address they can get. Is your child's email address among them. Is your child being sent pornography by email? Does it concern you that they might?

And whom are they talking to in that chatroom or on their instant messenger? Is it a friend they met online or someone who is out to do them harm? Do you need for something to happen before you do anything about it?

I am CEO of a missing children organization called the Kidsearch Network and have had to go out and search for more than 80 missing children. We have found a lot of them safe and sound, but we have also been on cases that turned out to be a homicide by a child abductor. Believe me when I tell you this. You do not want to wait until something happens before you do something to make sure your child

is safe online.

The software is not expensive nor is it complicated to use, so you have no excuse as a parent for not knowing the answers to the questions I have asked you in this article. Our organization has no affiliation with the companies that provide this software. We make no money by promoting the use of

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the computer monitoring software. We just want your child to be safe.

You can even try it out for free. Go to

<http://www.onlinesafetyshield.com>

for more information. It even

tells you by email or by your cellphone whenever your child views inappropriate content. You control what websites your child cannot visit. You monitor their email for when inappropriate content is there.

If you monitor your child's computer, the next time I ask those questions, you will be able to say yes.

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<http://www.missingchildrenblog.com>

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