

MCCPTA Technology Committee suggests these resources for families:

Education programs and Cyber security tools

Thinkfinity.org

Thinkfinity.org is the Verizon Foundation's free comprehensive website offering 55,000 free educational resources for Teachers, Parents and Students

All of Thinkfinity.org's 55,000 standards-based K-12 lesson plans, student materials, interactive tools and reference materials are reviewed by the nation's leading education organizations to ensure that content is accurate, up-to-date, unbiased and appropriate for students

ICRA.org

ICRA at a glance

ICRA (formerly the Internet Content Rating Association) is **part of the Family Online Safety Institute**, an international, non-profit organization of internet leaders working to develop a safer internet. With a history stretching back to 1994, ICRA has long believed that self-regulation leads to the best balance between the free flow of digital content and protecting children from potentially harmful material.

The centerpiece of the organization is the descriptive vocabulary, often referred to as "the ICRA questionnaire." Content providers check which of the elements in the questionnaire are present or absent from their websites. This then generates a small file containing the labels that is then linked to the content on one or more domains.

Users, especially parents of young children, can then use filtering software to allow or disallow access to web sites based on the information declared in the label. A key point is that ICRA does not rate internet content - the content providers do that, using the ICRA labeling system. ICRA makes no value judgment about sites.

The descriptive vocabulary was drawn up by an international panel and designed to be as neutral and objective as possible. It was revised in 2005 to enable easier application to a wide range of digital content, not just websites.

Most of the items in the questionnaire allow the content provider to declare simply that a particular type of content is present or absent. The subjective decision about whether to allow access to that content is then made by the parent.

Getnetwise.org

About GetNetWise

What is GetNetWise?

GetNetWise is a public service brought to you by Internet industry corporations and public interest organizations to help ensure that Internet users have safe, constructive, and educational or entertaining online experiences. The GetNetWise coalition wants Internet users to be just "one click away" from the resources they need to make informed decisions about their and their family's use of the Internet. More information is [available](#). GetNetWise is a project of the [Internet Education Foundation](#).

Who is involved?

GetNetWise is more than a Web site. It's a Web-wide partnership. It includes, through our corporate [partners](#), many of the Net's most well-known, trusted, and popular portals and content providers, all of whom are committed to providing Internet users with valuable information and tools. Many [organizations and individuals](#) with expertise in online child safety, privacy, security and spam issues provided valuable assistance developing GetNetWise.

The Internet Education Foundation would like to thank the [many people who worked to bring GetNetWise to the public](#).

I want to help!

There are so many ways for individuals, companies and organizations to [join us](#). Sharing with us your new tools, displaying our link on your website and telling your friends about our service, all help us keep you "one click away" from all the information you and your family need to GetNetWise.

<http://www.fosi.org/about/>

The Family Online Safety Institute (FOSI) brings stakeholders in the internet industry together to ensure an enjoyable online experience for children and families, whether at home or on their mobile handset. Few people would not consider themselves a stakeholder in this issue in some way or another: internet companies, educators, government officers and politicians, law-enforcement officials, charities and, of course, parents and children.

FOSI creates a unique and international space for open discussion amongst these stakeholders, exploring the challenge of how to keep children away from images, words and sites that their parents do not want them to see and from

behaving in ways that expose them to unnecessary dangers, without restricting wider online freedom.

There are many innovative filtering solutions on the market, and one aspect of the organization's work is to support such technological approaches. However, filters are only a partial solution. The Institute advocates parental involvement and empowerment, promoting a more balanced approach where families, educators, children and their peers recognize their shared responsibility. This is increasingly the case as ever-younger children have access to their own mobile devices and use them away from adult supervision. A younger teenager or child needs to understand that anything that happens offline can also happen online and that they can be in danger. It should be instinctive for a child to share with an older person that there was something on their screen that made them feel uncomfortable, or something that they didn't like when in a chatroom situation.

FOSI and its members believe that comprehensive industry self-regulation, coupled with reasonable government oversight and support, creates an ideal environment in which thought leaders can exchange information, develop ideas and refine solutions. Through its events, public policy and education activities, FOSI continues to address the challenge of family online safety.

About Stay Safe Online

StaySafeOnline.org is the National Cyber Security Alliance's Website. Content on the Website is developed in cooperation with many of our partners including government, industry, non-profit and education partners. Since our goal is increased education about and adoption of cyber security practices, all of the content found at StaySafeOnline.org may reproduced, if provided for free, to educate the public on good cyber security and safety practices

Top 8 Cyber Security Practices

1. [Protect your personal information. It's valuable.](#)
2. [Know who you're dealing with online.](#)
3. [Use anti-virus software, a firewall, and anti-spyware software to help keep your computer safe and secure.](#)
4. [Be sure to set up your operating system and Web browser software properly, and update them regularly.](#)
5. [Use strong passwords or strong authentication technology to help protect your personal information.](#)
6. [Back up important files.](#)
7. [Learn what to do if something goes wrong.](#)
8. [Protect your children online.](#)