

# COMPUTER SAFETY AND YOU



Presented by  
Winston-Salem Police Department  
Crime Prevention Unit

# On-Line Ordering

- How safe is it to shop on-line?
  - Many people only window shop on the net due to fear of someone obtaining their credit card number.
  - The reality is that shopping online is probably less risky than using your card at a local merchant.

# Precautions for On-Line shopping

- Shop at stores that are well known.
- If you have questions about the company you want to deal with...ask for a printed brochure.
- Do NOT deal with companies that only have a post office box and no phone number.
- Be familiar with “return and refund policy”.
- If the price seems “to good to be true”, a red flag should be raised.

# How do I know the web site is secure?

- If the “url” will start with <https://>, this means the document comes from a secure server.
- If you use Netscape Navigator as your browser, look in the lower left-hand corner or right corner (for 6.0) of your screen where you will see a padlock. If the padlock is locked the site is secure.
- Microsoft’s Internet Explorer also uses a padlock. It is located in the lower right hand corner, and will only appear if you are in a secure site.
- As technology changes the security indicator may change as well.

# Secure Electronic Transactions (SET)

- The credit and debit card industry are working on an enhanced level of security using Secure Electronic Transactions. When ready “SET” will provide highly encrypted communication between card issuers, merchants, and card members.

# After Placing an Order

- Print a copy of your order, and note any confirmation number and url of the site.
- You are better off ordering by credit card rather than writing a check. If you don't get your order you can challenge the charge with your credit card issuer by using your proof of the order.

# Personal Information

- Be extremely careful if you're asked to supply personal information, such as your social security number, or checking account information.
- Your name, address, credit card number, and expiration number are all the merchant needs.



# CHILDREN



# How do I keep my children safe?

- Monitor your child's on-line habits by spending time with them , and encourage them to share conversations they have with others.
- Frequently inquire about new friends made on-line.
- Place the computer where it is visible by everyone.
- Lay out clear ground rules, and make sure your child knows there may be some bad people on-line.

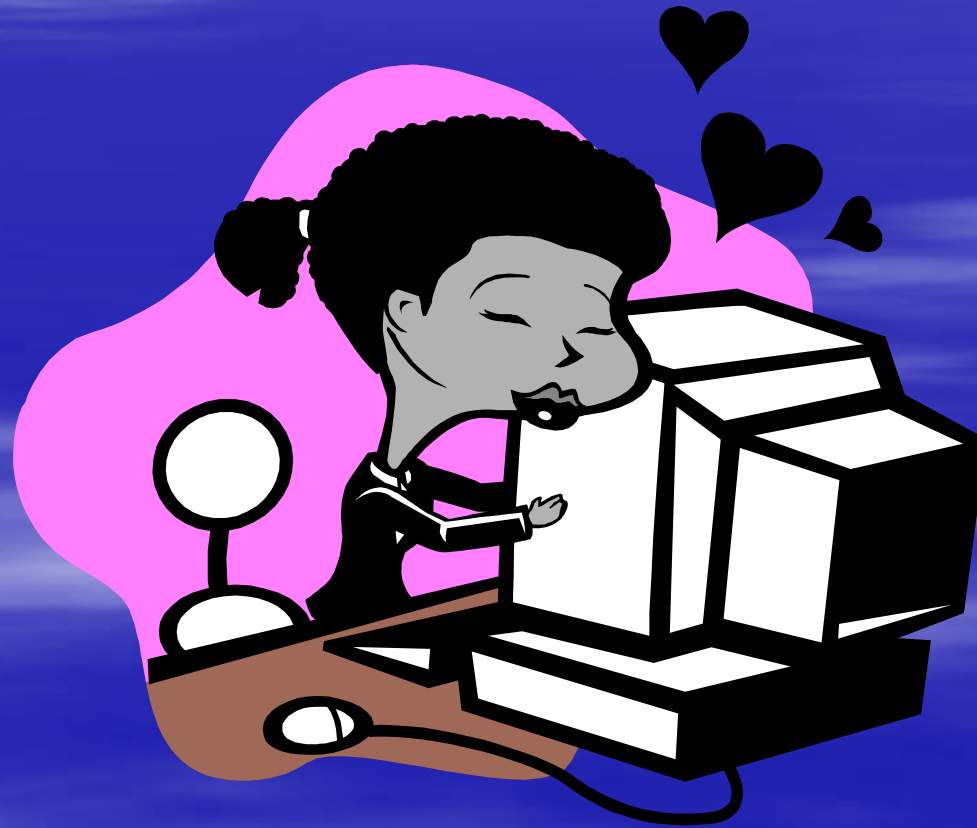
# Safety Tips for Children

- Tell your children to NEVER give out personal information without permission from the parents.
- Tell your child to report any conversations that make them feel uncomfortable.
- Check with your ISP for available “Parental Controls” available.

# Safety Tips for Children

- Software programs such as Net Nanny, CyberSister, and SurfWatch are available to provide a safe internet environment for children.
- Do NOT let young children surf the net alone.

# Romance on the Internet



# Who is on the other end?

- May not be anything like they describe themselves, and may not even be the gender they claim.
- May not be providing their real name or personal information, and may be using someone else's account or even a "hacked" account.
- May not be located where they say; the individual whom you believe to be on the other side of the country or overseas may be two blocks away.

# Blocking Annoying People

- If you experience a problem report it to your ISP.
- Learn the features your ISP provides for filtering mail, or “ignoring other members.”
- If your ISP does not seem interested in helping then switch to another service.

# Safety Tips for Adults

- Avoid giving out personal information such as your home address or telephone number to people you meet on the net.
- If interested in meeting someone in person make attempts to verify the identity. Ask where they work, and if you can contact them there.
- Meet in a public place such as a restaurant.



# Safety Tips for Adults

- Arrange your own transportation to and from the meeting.
- Bring a friend along for security.
- Set your conditions for the meeting, and don't let your new friend change them.
- Stay near other people and in lighted areas throughout the meeting.
- If things go awry, can you positively identify the person to the police?

# Questions

