INFOSEC 101
CONFIDENTIALITY • INTEGRITY • AVAILABILITY

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Online Predators – Final Part

Continuation…

THREATS BY ONLINE PREDATORS

The internet was invented to provide a one stop shop for people seeking knowledge and information.
Children and teens alike utilize the web at its full capacity, reaching even to a point that they become very prone and open to various threats. One of these threats is the Online Predators, which is one of the most dangerous.

Who are vulnerable to online predators and what are the techniques used?
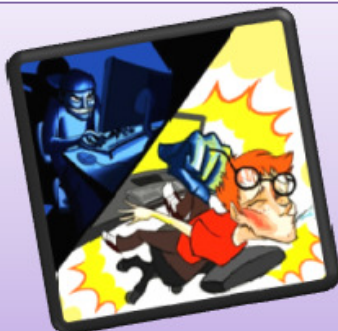
Children who are new to the Internet. Children who are unaware of the hidden dangers of the Internet make easy prey for online predators.

Sending gifts to children using email. Many online predators will attempt to establish favor with children by sending expensive gifts to their home address. This is one of the primary reasons why parents must insist that children NEVER give out their personal information online.

Kids who are confused about their sexual identity.
Predators pretend to be supportive and understanding to kids who need to talk about their sexual identity issues, when in reality, they are simply gathering information to use against them in the future.

Focusing on kids with problems at home.
Online predators will gather at sites and chat rooms where kids come to talk about their problems at school or at home. The predators know that these kids are most vulnerable and prone to their manipulative tactics.

Online predators test the child's comfort levels. Many online predators move slowly, befriending the child before moving in for a meeting or sexual discussions online. Others, if they feel the child is open to it, will immediately begin explicit conversations and use it to build a bond between them. Either way, these are highly manipulative individuals who know how to reach a child where they are most vulnerable.

Helping your kids avoid online predators.

The following tips will help parents keep their children/kids safe from online predators, while still giving them the freedom to use the Internet and learn valuable life skills:

Talk to them about the dangers that exist online. Parents should learn everything they can about online predators and cyber bullying, and then share that information in an open and honest dialogue with their children.

Monitor their computer use. Limit the bulk of your child's online time to periods when you and other members of the family are present. Create "online family time" and use these moments to learn more about your children/kids and what they like to do.

Instruct your kids to tell you if they feel threatened or uncomfortable while online. Many children/kids who encounter online predators do not tell their parents their experiences because they feel awkward. Ensure and build openness with your children/kids so that they will tell you and other members of the family IMMEDIATELY when they encounter situations that make them feel uncomfortable or harassed.

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Information Security: It's a Shared Responsibility

References: infosecawareness.in, www.wikipedia.com, cyberbullyalert.com, childrefuge.org

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