



CYBERSECURITY TRAINING FOR TEACHERS (CTT)

Student Online Risk

Online Risk

An online risk is simply anything that can cause harm or damage to an online computer user. These risks could result to a computer being hacked, data theft or alteration of information. There are several risks students may face while learning online, especially those under the age of 18 as they are easily gullible.

Some of the most common online risks students may face include:

1. Exposure to inappropriate material such as pornography.
2. Cyberbullying
3. Giving out personal information online
4. Online scams
5. Cyber predators
6. Cyber-attacks through phishing or accidental malware download.

Research conducted by the EU Kids Online on countries around Europe according to the UK Council for Child Internet Safety, showed that strangers messaging them, violent content, sexual content, and photos of them being taken without their consent, were some of the things they found disturbing while online. Below is an image on some of those responses.

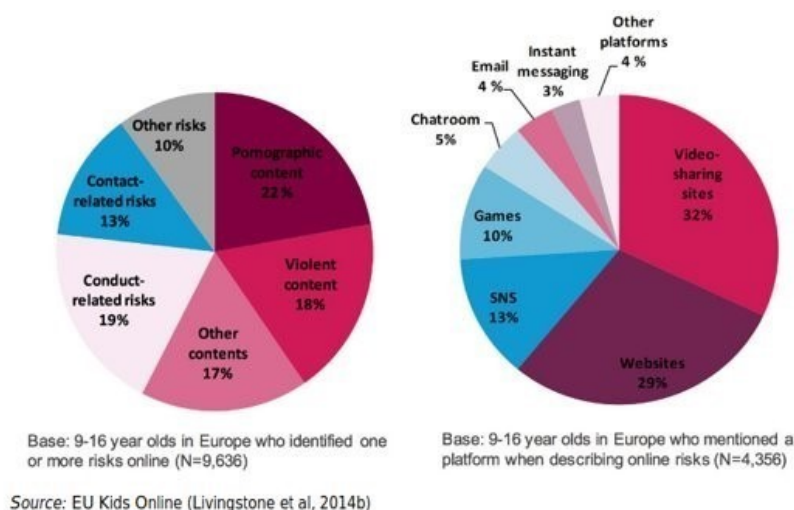


Source: EU Kids Online (Livingstone et al. 2014b)

[Image from gov.uk]

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The image below identifies the percentage of the common student online risks identified from the research.



[Image from gov.uk]

Indicators of student facing online abuse

Parents, guardians and teachers should study behaviors of students while online to identify if the student is facing any kind of online abuse. A student experiencing online abuse may exhibit the following behaviors:

- Spends most of the time online either gaming, on social media or texting.
- Hides about persons they interact with online through texts, calls and emails.
- Shows withdrawal signs such as mood swings, anger, stress, anxiety and depression, after using the internet.