

“The Proliferation of Social Networking: Communication, Courts and Criminals”

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“Today I am going to write a letter to an old friend to see how they have been for the past several years”. The preceding statement is not typical in today’s modern world with the proliferation of social networking. Long gone are the days where one can run into an old classmate at the grocery store and catch up on the last twenty years, or have conversations with friends stating “you’re never going to guess who I ran into and how they are!” The implementation of the internet amongst households in the twenty-first century has forever changed the ways that we communicate with one another. Social networks now allow us to peer into anyone of our “friends” lives as we so please. One can see who is married, who has children, who is divorced and who is on the prowl for someone new! There are many benefits to social networking and maintaining communications with our friends and family members, but at what cost? Social networking is shaping the way that we communicate with each other while leaving an old friend to become passé; intimate personal communication. When was the last time that any of us can state we penned a letter in our own hand and put a stamp on it? In the first segment of this paper, we will look into the past and see how communication has evolved into the current state that it finds itself; an explosion of social networking.

The implementation of social networking has also given birth to a new meaning of crime. It will be demonstrated throughout this paper how more information than one may realize is readily available for the criminal masterminds to gain access to. Not only has

social networking created more ways for victimization to occur, but it has also enhanced a multitude of ways for the criminal to hunt his prey. This victimization has resulted in areas of sexual predators amassing numerous ways to reach young prey, white collar crime over the internet, identity theft and domestic disputes. We will see that there have been numerous cases that have resulted in the worldwide headlines with the crime resulting from social networking.

In the final segment of this paper I will attempt to expose some of the dangers that are just a key stroke away for all of us out in the cyber world. I will change my direction of research and look at the world-wide-web through the eyes of a criminal mastermind and attempt to uncover the evil that is available to anyone who desires it.

Communication

In the beginning of time, when man and woman were created, what did they do? They spoke to each other. We know through historical documentation that the alphabet was created as a method of communication amongst one another as far back as 3500 b.c. by the Phoenicians. (www.inventors.about.com) Speaking to one another verbally and writing down our thoughts and knowledge has been an art form of communication for thousands of years. Humans yearn to be around and involved with one another, and one of the greatest forms of expression amongst each other is communication; verbal and written. The progression of communication has evolved through the years with the implementation of postal services, books, newspapers and telephones, but one thing has always remained a constant; we spoke to one another with our mouths. This may come as a surprise to some, particularly the generation of those aged 16-21 whose communication skills have been forged from the social networking era. Communication as our youth now know it, made its significant change starting with the birth of APRANET.

APRANET was the first “packet switching” network that has evolved into what we know today as the “Internet”. APRANET was originally created by the *Information Processing Techniques Offices* with the intention of sending communications from one computer to another that were not side by side. This was achieved on October, 29, 1969 when the “Interface Message Processor” at UCLA sent its first message successfully to

Stanford University at approximately 10:30 p.m. (www.motherboard.com) This attempt of communication over this distance was for UCLA to send the word “log” to Stanford University one letter at a time. APRANET was successful in sending the letters “l” and “o” before the system crashed. This telephone booth sized first internet communication method, built with military strength material, was the birth of verbal communication becoming outmoded. As time progressed through the generations we slowly lost the art form of speaking to one another in person. ARPANET today has transformed into the most extensive method of communication globally, with thousands of search options to reach our cyber destinations.

As time transitioned through the decades and the internet became a household norm in the latter 1990’s, we started to meet the new networking methods of today. The 21st century: Hello “Google”, “Facebook”, “Twitter”, “Hi5”, “E-Harmony”, “MySpace”, just to name a few. These are the modern day methods of not only speaking to one another but information sourcing. As our technology expanded with the encompassing internet, so did our means and methods for many parts of our lives. Out are the days of looking through catalog numbers to find books at the library, opening a telephone book and thumbing through the yellow pages to find a telephone number or even chatting amongst friends for a recommendation to a good restaurant. All of the preceding can now be done through search engines on the internet. We can all turn to Google.

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Google is a search engine that was created in 1997 by two Stanford graduates, Larry Page and Sergey Brinn. (www.google.com/about/corporate/company/history.com) It is within the ability of this search engine that one can find almost any answers desired with the internet. In August of 2009, Google was listed as the number one website visited in the United States. (www.Alexa.com -August 12, 2009 list of Top 100 websites in United States) Google can answer whatever question one can pose to her and with lightning quick results and relevancy. What has this resulted in? I know for myself I do not seek the help of a librarian when looking for periodicals or books, I do not stop and chat with a friendly store attendant for directions, I also no longer utilize 411 for any telephone numbers. I am able to accomplish all of these with a few key strokes, either on my personal computer through a search engine such as Google, or even with my cellular phone. This has and can made my life much easier in many situations, but at what cost to others? Will librarians as an example eventually become non-existent? Has this convenience of modern day technology created a double-edged sword for our employment not only in the United States but globally? The answer to that question is not for me to decide. History has shown us that when the new replaces the old, new jobs and methods are created with it, but to loose communication with one another is something we should all fight for.

On the internet one can find “chat rooms” and social sites such as “Facebook” where we can all visit with our friends virtually and type messages. There is a new

terminology being created with this online epidemic with words such as “lol”, to laugh out loud, “ttyl”, talk to you later and “tyvm”, thank you very much, just to name a few. I must ask myself and bring to the attention of others, what is wrong with this? While we have the convenience of being able to instantaneously chat with whomever is logged on, we are losing more than we know. When someone types “lol” to you, would you not rather hear the laughter in their voice and see the smile on their face when they laugh? When people have personal intimate conversation, we not only hear, see, smell and utilize our senses; we also listen. Can we really achieve these necessary means of conversation through typing all the time? If a friend is down, and they are instant messaging you about how dreary things may be in their life, can you give them the needed compassion through only you’re keystrokes selected?

Writing has also changed with the proliferation of social networking. In days of past there were books written in such eloquent forms of combining words so beautifully that is seemed almost an art form. Jane Austen who authored several novels, such as “*Pride & Prejudice*”, is an example of how words can be combined to describe something so beautifully and to be viewed in an all-together different way. Let me share with you a way of expression from a bygone era of Jane Austen in *Pride and Prejudice*, “You shall not, for the sake of one individual, change the meaning of principle and integrity, nor endeavor to persuade yourself or me, that selfishness is prudence, and insensibility of danger security for happiness.” (Ch. 24, *Pride & Prejudice*) In today’s

world, most may not be able to interpret the previous excerpt. The 21st century has presented us with a more concise way of writing. Let me introduce you to “Twitter”. A social networking site with “190 million visitors per month”, where one updates their lives in 140 characters or less, is being utilized more than comprehensive writing. (www.techcrunch.com) An example of this new form of writing would be “talk 2 u l8r, tyvm 4 lunch” Now, the purpose is achieved, but would you not yearn for more? Would you leave the conversation at that or would you meet up at some other time? The preferable sentence would have been “it was so great seeing you today and I am glad that we were able to find time to spend together over lunch. I hope we can do this visit again very soon!” Where we find ourselves is “effectively speaking a new language entirely – so who is to say if it is right or wrong?” (www.gigaom.com) Our 21st century speaking may not be as formal or eloquent as Jane Austen, but can’t we meet in the middle?

A final observation I personally have witnessed on more occasions than I can count, is the lack of verbal communication amongst one another even when in each other’s presence. Current technology and social networking has not only allowed us but it entices us to communicate via computers or texting not randomly but always. Remember back to high school when chatting with your friends in class was only a “psst” away, those days are but a distant memory. Today’s youth and even the technologically inclined, will communicate with one another via a text message or a note on a social networking board even when they are sitting with one another! I want to fight for

hearing my friend's voice, I want to hear the compassion, humor or even doubt in their voice! Can we achieve this through a computer message?

If one can sense my sarcasm in this research it is because I am disappointed to an extent. As stated previously, my own life has embraced today's technology of communication with open arms, but there must be a limit. Social networking and communication has changed forever but we must not lose sight of our instinctual nature as humans; to communicate, speak and be amongst one another in person and verbally.

II. Courts

When there are legal problems within the United States where does one turn to for solution? The United States court system. The first court in the United States was established as “The Supreme Court” in New York City in 1790. (<http://usgovinfo.about.com/library/weekly>) The Chief Justice of this court was John Jay who was appointed by the president at the time, President George Washington. When there are disputes amongst two or more persons, the case can be taken to the court system. It is from this point where a decision is reached by either a judge or a jury to determine if a wrong has occurred according to the current laws. In the 21st century the court system has seen a change in cases through the progression of technology. Social networking has also made its mark in the United States court system in the fact that cases have reached legal status through victimization and criminal offending as a result of social networking. The following are actual examples of how social networking has made a detrimental effect on the lives of citizens and the court system.

Facebook. Previously we were introduced to the social networking site of Facebook where people can re-connect with old and new friends on a specific internet site. On this social networking site users can share and post information about their lives for their friends to view. One of the options that users have as a part of their *profile* is to showcase their current relationship status. Users can select from “single”, “married”, “in a relationship” to “it’s complicated”. (www.facebook.com) One can observe that people

are eager to display this type of information and change the status the moment it occurs. Facebook is often the first to find out about a relationship change even before the user speaks the information to another person. “Unfortunately, posting the wrong thing on such sites can also get you murdered.” (Kendall; Murder by Facebook)

Brian Lewis, 31 of Britain, killed his common-law wife and mother of four, Haley Jones, after informing his friends that he could not stand to lose her to another man. Haley had been spending a great deal of time on social networking sites and went as far as changing her Facebook status from “married” to “single” and made it clear to her social networking audience that she was available for romance. (www.associatedcontent.com) The end result was her being murdered by Brian because of this social network status update.

Let me next introduce you to a twenty-five year old man named Wayne Smith of Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Smith would befriend women on his social networking site Facebook and allegedly make dates with them to meet. Mr. Smith has been charged with assaulting and raping three women that he met through Facebook. (www.dreamindemon.com) As of March 2011, the local court was holding the defendant with a bond of 1.5 million for the three cases.

David Bradt, 24 of Albany was charged in March of 2011 with four counts of third-degree rape that occurred in January of 2011. Mr. Bradt would “use Facebook to add the friends of others he knew to his own friend list, then add their friends, and so on

until he amassed 700 friends at the time of his arrest.” (www.troyrecord.com) Bradt would befriend girls through his Facebook profile and establish dates to meet up with them. Once Bradt would meet with the girl he would provide them with alcohol and marijuana and rape them. The girls that were raped as a result of David Bradt were all aged 15-16 at the time of the occurrence. The court sentenced Bradt to thirteen years in prison with ten years of probation after his release. According to District Attorney David Soares of Albany, “social networks are a great tool and have become the medium of choice we use to communicate with one another. Unfortunately, predators often use this medium to identify their targets as well.” These are just a few select examples of crimes that have and do occur as a result of social networking and the information that we reveal to strangers online without hesitation. Through this research it has become apparent that with the proliferation of social networking, users of such sites seem to allow their natural instincts to diminish. There is too much trust in the user with the security of typing to a computer screen. What one must be made aware of are the dangers beyond the immediate computer page. There are many monsters waiting to take advantage of users through social networking sites and the sexual predator is no exception.

According to the New York Daily News, in December of 2009, “more than 3,500 convicted sex offenders have been removed from the social networking sites of Facebook and MySpace in the state of New York.” This removal of the convicted sex offenders was resulting from an act known as “E-Stop”, “Electronic Security and Targeting of

Online Predators Act that was enacted in 2008. What our society is faced with today is not necessarily an increase in these types of predators and criminals, but “more opportunities for potential offenders to engage with children” according to Ernie Allen, CEO of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. The nation’s hotline for reporting sexual exploitation of children is called the “CyberTipline.” In 2010 the tip line received 223,374 reports of suspicious online activity. This number is nearly double the 2009 report. (www.usatoday.com) The social networking sites, the ease of internet access and plethora of opportunities is making greater opportunities for this type of criminal activity. The following is an example of a sexual predator utilizing Facebook to commit crime.

“Peter Chapman, a registered sex offender, was sentenced to life in prison for kidnapping, raping and murdering Ashleigh Hall, 17, whom Chapman courted and lured to her death using Facebook.” (www.huffingtonpost.com) This sexual predator was able to befriend a young woman using a fake profile on his Facebook account to establish a friendship and gain the trust of this young woman. This communication amongst the social networking site led to the untimely death of Ashleigh Hall. The court sentenced Chapman to thirty-five years in prison.

What the preceding information has brought to our attention is the need for protection for our children and ourselves from the crimes that are waiting to be committed against us from within our computer screens. According to a 2006 survey by

the *Pew Internet and American Life Project*, 55% of Americans ageing from 12 to 17 are active users of online social networking sites. (www.health.harvard.edu) Further information that is disturbing to realize according to Pew, 56% of all users stated above post personal information about themselves on their social networking sites, 43% of the users interact with strangers online and 35% admit to adding strangers to their social networking “buddy” lists. (www.health.harvard.edu) The information that research has revealed to us thus far regarding sexual predators is that social networking sites are a “gateway” for these predators to introduce and charm their way into the lives of the youth online. An astonishing figure of approximately 73% of United States teens to adults are a member of at least one social networking site. (www.graphicsms.com)

In the “Deleting Online Predators Act of 2007” a bill was proposed for the purpose of “requiring recipients of universal service support for schools and libraries to protect minors from commercial social networking websites and chat rooms. In the Bill congress stated that:

“Sexual predators approach minors on the internet using chat rooms, and social networking websites, and, according to the United States Attorney General, one in five children has been approached sexually on the internet. Sexual predators can use these chat rooms and websites to locate, learn about, befriend, and eventually prey on children by engaging them in sexually explicit conversations, asking for

photographs and attempting to lure children to a face-to-face meeting.....”

(www.info.sen.ca.gov)

An additional proposal to the senate in the State of California is the Social Networking Privacy Act known as SB242. The implementation of this legislature will “force sites to impose a default privacy setting that prohibits the public display of any information other than a user’s name and city of residence; (2) require sites to create a process for users to select their privacy settings as part of the registration process and prohibit registration until a user chooses their settings; (3) mandate that sites honor users’ requests (or the request of the user’s parent if the user is under 18) to delete their personal information within 48 hours; and (4) impose a severe civil penalty of up to \$10,000 for each violation.” (www.zwillenblog.com) The purpose of this bill is to implement automatic privacy settings which would decrease the likelihood of predators and criminals gaining easy access to personal and revealing social networking information. Internet companies are in opposition of this bill stating one of their reasons is that it “would interfere with the right to freedom of speech guaranteed by the United States and California Constitutions.” (www.zwillenblog.com) Is it an interference with our freedom of speech, or will it affect their wallets? Unfortunately on June 2, 2011 as SB242 was read for a third time to the California Senate, it did not pass.

The reason for legislature change and proposals such as those exemplified above are that social networking sites have increased the opportunities available to online predators

in recent years. According to a study of sexual predators, “online predators were more or less unknown in 2000, but by 2006 accounted for 33% of the initial contacts between actual minors and adults in search of illicit sex.” (www.arstechnica.com) Continued efforts by law enforcement and our government will drastically reduce these online opportunities for criminals whereby making social networking a safer option.

Sex and social networking seem to have forged a harmonious relationship with the progression of technology. It is not only in a criminal fashion that predators lurk out in cyber world. There are those that are seeking mutual sexual pleasure found through their key strokes. The enticing and easily accessible social networks have reached as high as our esteemed members of Congress. No one is exempt from the temptations that the internet has to offer.

Congressman Anthony Weiner was an esteemed member of Congress at the young age of 46. Once labeled as one of the most “50 influential Jewish Americans” by The Forward in 2007, Anthony Weiner is now dubbed a “Shakespearean tragedy.” (www.nydailynews.com) Anthony Weiner found himself like many others, a daily utilizer of modern technology and social networking. One of the sites that Congressman Weiner frequented was Twitter. On Wednesday, May 18, 2011, the married Weiner posted to his Twitter account a message and a photo that he intended for a private recipient; a 21 year old college female from Seattle. What happened next could not have unraveled any better than a modern day tragedy. What Congressman Weiner sent was a

public display of his intended private message and a photo of his fully erect clad self in gray underwear for all of his forty thousand followers to see. Once the Congressman realized what he had done in making the message public, he immediately deleted the message and made claim on his Twitter account that he had been hacked. This fabrication by the Congressman lasted until June 16, 2011 when the truth was finally revealed. The Congressman had succumbed to the temptations of “sexting” and communicating with women via social networking for sexual results. Now there presently are not any violations of the law for this type of messaging that Congressman Weiner committed, but I ask was it worth the loss of his esteemed political position and possibly his marriage? I think not.

It has been revealed that social networking can and has been a method for criminals to seek their victims. The preceding information was selected to inform and possibly prevent others from making the same mistakes. The use of social networking does not allow any one of us to diminish our common sense abilities. While there are laws that are enacted such as “Deleting Online Predators Act of 2007”, we must become educated on the dangers that exist for ourselves and our children with the world-wide-web. One must not succumb to the “ignorance is bliss” status, and be made aware of the negative aspects of social networking. Through awareness the proliferation of social networking can become a more positive outlet of communication and education.

II. Criminals

Have you ever had a deranged thought to yourself that you would like to kill someone? Have evil thoughts ever entered your mind, if only for a moment, on how to take advantage of a young girl? Has the thought of faking a profile to gain access to a minor crossed your mind? These can be potential questions for those of a criminal and he can easily seek out these answers through the internet. Let us take a journey to the evil, if one is so willing to explore that is available for anyone to utilize.

I posed a question to the search engine Google, “How to murder someone”, and to my bewilderment, I was returned in .016 seconds a result of over 110,000,000 articles. (www.google.com) According to the Content Farm, who has an article titled “How to Commit the Perfect Murder”, there are several easy steps to adhere to in order to preserve anonymity and execution. 1. *Chose a wise location.* It is the recommendation of the author to choose such places as abandoned buildings or camping sites during the off-season. 2. *The selection of the appropriate weapon.* Most often people would opt to choose a gun as their weapon of choice. The best suggestion is to use a knife. It will provide one with a quick and clean kill and most importantly, quiet. 3. *The method of execution.* While people are of different size and stature, so are your potential victims. The best approach to an attack is from behind. If one is able to perform a blitz attack and slash the victim’s throat, this will result in multiple benefits. Not only will you take your victim by the element of surprise, but attacking from behind and slicing the neck will kill

a victim of any size. An added benefit to this method of attack is that the arterial spray of blood will be directed away from the attacker, leaving less evidence and mess to conceal.

4. *The disposal of the body.* The easiest method of disposal is at or near the site of where the kill occurred. It is noted that “the woods, in a deep grave of at least six to eight feet” will serve best for being undetected. (www.contentfarm.com)

To further serve the interest of the potential serial murderer or lone rapist there is also available “10 Tips to Commit the Perfect Crime” by www.listverse.com. To achieve success one must be diligent in implementing the following steps or raise the risk of detection by authorities. *DNA.* In today’s technological world, DNA is a sure way to prove whether one committed or participated in a crime. It is almost impossible for anyone to not leave any DNA evidence, therefore it is advised that one seek their crime to occur in a place that has a lot of DNA from strangers. Examples of this would be a local shopping mall, a grocery store or anywhere in which large groups of people gather. The probabilities of pinpointing one person’s DNA as the offender will be very unlikely. 2. *Relationship.* Most often crimes are committed amongst two or more people who know one another. The best bet is to select a random victim that will not have any ties back to you. 3. *Proximity.* Travel outside of your own district to commit the crime. “Travel far enough that you are outside of the main area of interest to the police.” 4. *Type of Crime.* When selecting the type of crime you want to commit, look at the elements and environment surrounding this type of circumstance. Choose the early hours of dawn,

when there are no to minimal possibilities for witnesses. 5. *Evidence*. Instead of trying to hide that you have committed a crime, instead hide any “connection that you have to the crime.” 6. *Timing*. The best time to commit a crime is the early hours of the morning when most people are still sleeping. Make sure that you do not appear out of place, blend in. 7. *Tools*. When you are selecting the tools that you will need to commit your crime, it is best for you to drive a distance to a larger department store for your purchase. When one makes their purchase at a city that they are not a resident of and in a large facility, it is less likely that they will be remembered. 8. *Alibi*. It is always best to have one. 9. *The Getaway*. The best mode of transportation after your crime has been committed is by bicycle. Use of a bicycle can take you to your vehicle which may be parked further away, and will enable one to travel off of the main roads as well. 10. *Aftermath*. Resume your life as normal immediately. Do not watch the local news, do not read the newspapers, for the police force will be trying all tools to psychologically bring you out. Do not ever speak of the crime you have committed to anyone. The author states that if the preceding ten guidelines are adhered to in the strictest of fashion, the crime committed will not be able to be detected. I now know how to commit the perfect crime and get away with it. Thank you Google.

The next obstacle that I pose to the internet is how to deceive my prey and achieve complete anonymity. Have you ever pondered why criminals seem to escape getting caught, let alone conviction for online crimes? Criminals know how to “spoof” their

identity. Spoofing by definition is to “hoax” or “trick” someone. (www.symantec.com) It is the word for impersonating an email sender’s identity. It is forgery. In IP Spoofing an attacker gains unauthorized access to a computer or a network by making it appear that an email or a chat message has originated from a computer other than his. This method of falsifying the origin of the message is more complicated in nature, but does exist for the criminal to utilize. This particular method of deception must be made aware to the public. Since we are a world of modern technology and social networking, we are never fully aware of whom we or our children may be “chatting” with online. The only guarantee we have of that is in person. If a sexual predator or any type of criminal were intending to deceive not only their victims, but the authorities, we must all take heed and the necessary precautions to prohibit the instance from ever occurring. Parents and citizens must stay one step ahead of the criminal game. Do u l33t sp34k?

“Leet Speak”, an abbreviated version of the word “elite”, is an altered version of the alphabet that can be traced back to the early 1980’s. This form of speaking was developed to keep conversations private and unreadable to the lay person. The original intention was “utilized mainly by internet hackers in order to avoid getting caught by the government.” (www.crummysocks.com) Leet Speak replaces standard letterforms with others looking vaguely similar. For example the letter “L” is replaced with the number “1”, 3 for E, 5 for S and so on. Hackers of the 1980’s and now the youth of today can speak online with one another in open rooms with the likelihood that not many others

will understand them. This includes criminals. Sexual predators whose ultimate prize is relating or being hip with a minor child, will utilize this method of chat to speak to children online. If a parent were to read a chat that simply stated “1)0 (-) |//4/√7 2 ^\337 !/√ 1*3250/√?”, would you understand this sentence? Translated from Leet Speak it reads “do you want to meet in person?” The criminals of the internet understand, don’t you think we should too?

Remember the question posed in the beginning of this segment, “how to rape a young girl?”, Google has an answer for that also. In a rapid result of 0.29 seconds, one is returned with 23,400,000 different articles that have the requested subject material. (www.google.com) If I am a serial killer, rapist or a sexual predator, I can take my choice on which selection I would like to browse for my enjoyment. Not only can one read on how to rape a young girl, there are YouTube videos available to watch. At the bottom of the results page there is a listing of further pages to review the requested results. The further the searcher increases in page numbers, the more horrific the details and images that are displayed. I attempted to select some of the material that was further along in the list displayed and to my surprise, I was prohibited. Needless to say, this did not occur until after I had selected over seventy pages of explicit and sexual material. Enter NAMBLA.

NAMBLA is an acronym for North American Man Boy Love Association that was formed in 1978. “NAMBLA calls for the empowerment of youth in all areas, not just the

sexual. We support greater economic, political and social opportunities for young people and denounce the rampant ageism that segregates and isolates them in fear and mistrust. We believe sexual feelings are a positive life force. We support the rights of youth as well as adults to choose the partners with whom they wish to share and enjoy their bodies.” (www.nambla.com)

What is available through the website created by NAMBLA are accountings of man/boy sexual relationships, personal experiences, social issues and recommended readings just to name a few. Any homosexual male who is seeking sexual relations with a young boy can find comfort in the promotion of this type of sexual activity. Men who have regular sexual relations with young/juvenile boys can recount their blissful experiences and share them in detail for others to enjoy. A sexual predator can not only learn and take heed from others before him on how to “romance” and sexually please a young male, he can also be accepted, here at NAMBLA.

In just a few simple key strokes I can generate results on how to kill someone and get away with it, how to deceive my identity when preying upon juveniles online and how to be accepted as a sexual predator. Did I need certain permission to access any of this information? Did I have to register my name and purpose when searching for this material? No. It is available to anyone who seeks it, young or old, law abiding or not.

APRANET has changed more of our present day than she ever could have imagined. I can only infer that the intentions of the creators of the internet were genuine; to make communication more efficient. What has resulted is the internet has become an easier gateway for the information that always existed, both intellectual and psychotic. It is easy for any user of social networking to maintain communication with people in our lives from both past and present. It is with ease that we can communicate with people through messaging instead of the burdensome in person visit. We don't really want to talk to people do we?

Criminals seem to have the upper hand in the opportunities available through cyber space. No longer do rapists need to prowl bars for their victim, no longer do sexual predators need to lurk around playgrounds or schoolyards. The criminals have easier access than ever before; right from the comfort of their "guarded, projected or spoofed" computer. Gone are the days where pedophiles sought out one another in seclusion, it is but a distant memory for homosexuals to hide their love for juvenile boys. The proliferation of social networking: is it all that modern day society builds it up to be? It is for you to decide, for you to become consciously aware of the realistic dangers that are available to not only your children, but yourself and your identity. Ignorance is not bliss. Knowledge is best.

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