

Websites and Software

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

February 13th, 2007



PARENT TEACHER ADMINISTRATION ALLIANCE

1500 NORTH HARRISON AVENUE, CARY, NC 27513 • PHONE (919) 677 3873
FAX (919) 677 4002 • WWW.CARYACADEMY.ORG

Websites

The Good

Kid Friendly Web Portals

- Yahoo (Yahooligans)
- MSN
- AOL
- Cary Academy website
- Set default home page to a reputable and legal site like one of these

The Bad

- Most sites offering FREE anything – mp3, videos, games etc.
- Wide open social sites like MySpace

The Ugly – Can get ugly if used improperly or excessively

- Chat, Facebook, search, YouTube, Warcraft etc.



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Software Downloads

The Good

Only download from reputable paid software sites like:

- Microsoft
- Electronic Arts
- Apple (iTunes)
- You get what you pay for, in this case functional, virus free software, games, music, or videos.

The Bad

- Almost all freeware and file sharing programs like Kazaa, bit torrent
- Full of spamware, spyware, viruses, nasty click thru
- Never download from an untrusted source

The Ugly – Can get ugly fast

- Shareware available on CNET and other sites



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Internet Rules at Home

- Cary Academy tablet PCs have Norton versions of anti-virus, anti-spyware, anti-spam, and firewall installed and running. Always keep this internet security software running and set to auto update. Do not install other types as this may interfere with the operation of the Norton versions.



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Internet Rules at Home

- Tablet PCs can locate and use wireless networks anywhere. Therefore you need restriction and monitoring software running on the Tablet PC itself, not just network restrictions.
- Use a good restriction and monitoring program like Cybersitter or NetNanny.



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Internet Rules at Home

- Discuss these things with your student, and let them know that you and the school are paying attention.
- No solution is perfect, but minimizing risk and providing deterrence will provide a safer internet experience for your student.



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Restriction software: Cybersitter v9.0

- Block access to undesirable web sites. Over 30 filter categories are provided.
- Record and view all web sites visited.
- Record both sides of chat conversations from AOL Instant Messenger (AIM, and AIM Triton), Yahoo Messenger, and MSN Messenger
- New *Social Networking* category provides blocking of popular but potentially dangerous services such as **MySpace** and **FaceBook**.
- Filters for selected categories update themselves automatically in the background.
- Set time restrictions for internet usage.
- Sends reports to parents by email.
- Simple to install. Takes less than one minute.
- Stealthy - cannot be detected or disabled by unauthorized users.



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Cybersitter Installation

- From your student's Tablet PC, go to www.cybersitter.com.
- Download the free trial version and install.
- Set configuration and password for yourself
- Individual license version is \$39.95 after 10 days
- Group educational discount version is \$9.95 for 10 or more licenses



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