# Personal Internet Safety

When using a computer in your daily work, it is wise to remember the rules of personal Internet safety.

## What is Internet Crime?

Criminal activity that is either committed or facilitated through the use of the World Wide Web is known as Internet crime. Common types of Internet crime include:

- Identity theft
- Hacking
- Fraud
- Cyberstalking
- Pedophilia

Other terms for Internet crime are cybercrime, high-tech crime, or e-crime.

## Rules for Personal Internet Safety

You can reduce your risk of becoming a victim of online crime by remembering the following basic rules for personal Internet safety.

### Keep Your Personal Information Private

The easiest way to avoid becoming a victim of Internet crime is to guard your personal information. With the use of online databases, criminals can easily use the following information to locate you:

- Your full name
- Your date of birth
- Street addresses
- The names of your family members
- Where you work
- Places you like to visit on a regular basis – restaurants, shopping malls, etc.
- Photographs – especially if they include identifying details such as a local landmark or a car with a visible license plate number

**Computer Security Features**

Although our District has formal policies for computer security, the average Internet user tends to forget how much valuable information is stored on his/her personal computer. Digital photographs, address books, e-mail records or online banking information are all examples of easy data for hackers to use for Internet crime.

To protect your safety online, it is important to take computer security seriously.  Use secure passwords at all times.  Below are some examples of secure passwords.

- LDVpMLit16c!
  Leonardo Da Vinci painted Mona Lisa in the 16$^{th}$ century

- KS86jw03!
  Kelly Smith, born in 1986
  Jeep Wrangler, 2003 model

When it is time to change your password, make sure you <u>do not</u> increment your password by one number or by one letter.  Examples of this are below.

- KS86jwo3!
- KS86jwo3!A
- KS86jwo3!B
- KS86jwo3!1
- KS86jwo3!2

Employees are prohibited from downloading free software online unless you are positive it is from a reputable vendor.  Many free programs are simply delivery vehicles for adware, spyware or computer viruses.


# Reporting Internet Crime

Contact your local law enforcement office, if you are concerned that you or someone you know is the victim of an Internet crime.


# References

Hinders, D. (n.d.) Personal Internet Safety.  Retrieved May 23, 2008 from
http://safety.lovetoknow.com/Personal_Internet_Safety .