

**SECURITY - Now ...more than ever!**

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**DTI eSecurity News - Who are your children interacting with online?****What can be done to reduce the risk?**

- Be involved with your children's computer use. Try to plan activities that can involve the whole family. This is a good way to encourage safe and fun online activities.
- Keep your computer in an open area so you can periodically monitor your children's activities and intervene if you notice a computer behavior that could have negative consequences.
- Set computer rules and talk to them about possible dangers they may face while using the computer. Rules may include times when they are allowed to use the computer and websites they are not allowed to visit.
- Let your children know they can always talk to you about questions or problems they have concerning their computer usage.
- If your computer supports it, consider setting up multiple user accounts. A restricted account may be set up to protect your computer from accidental deletions and exposure to spyware and viruses. Click [here](#) for more info on how to do this in Windows XP.
- Consider a parental control software package. Click [here](#) for PC Magazine's Buying Guide.

**What unique risks are children exposed to?**

- Children are young, innocent, and curious. Parents need to consider these characteristics when evaluating the security of their data and their children's activities.
- Children may accidentally delete vital program files or inadvertently visit a malicious website that installs spyware or viruses on your computer.
- Children are especially susceptible to online predators. It is very easy for people to misrepresent everything about themselves online. This is especially the case with online chat rooms and the increasingly popular social networking sites such as MySpace.

All of these concerns must be addressed to ensure children are safe and secure while using the computer.

**Parental Control Applications**

There are several software packages available to restrict the online usage of your computer with passwords and filter lists.

These programs check the web address the user is attempting to visit against a published list of websites based on categories that are considered to be inappropriate for children. The software then disallows the user

to visit the website displaying a message for the reason that the website was blocked.

Please note that web filters and parental controls are not a substitute for anti-virus and spyware protection. K9 Web Protection is designed to be used in conjunction with these tools.

**Questions or comments?**  
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