

SECURITY - Now ...more than ever!

Cyber Security - Disaster Recovery - Continuity of Government



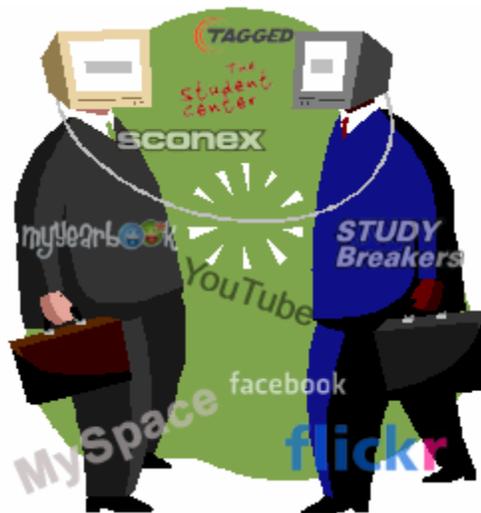
DTI eSecurity News - Who is really on the other end of the conversation?

What are Social Networking Sites?

A social networking site is an internet site that provides a central location for existing friends or business partners to easily share information, ideas, and interests. It also provides a means to easily create new personal or business relationships.

When registering for the site, users are asked to provide personal information in order to build a self-profile. Once registered, users can take advantage of certain features designed to help them interact with other users such as chat rooms, instant messages, forums, and e-mail. Users create relationships on the site, either through current relationships or by searching for other users. Search criteria can be common interests, location, name, e-mail address, and other personal information.

Users may also join groups or small communities centered around specific topics or common interests.



What is at risk?



Most of the users on these sites are not dangerous, but the large amount of personal information provided by some users makes the sites attractive targets for malicious people.

It is not uncommon to find

The internet provides a false sense of anonymity and security, leading some people to provide a large amount of personal information.

full names, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses on user profiles. Some users even provide their school name, place of employment, hobbies, and details about their daily schedules.

Social networking sites are popular among teenagers and have recently been a useful tool for predators. Personal information is often tailored for friends without considering that predators may see the information too. The common interest sections of the profiles allow predators to establish a common ground with their victim and may lead to meeting them in person.

It is important to be very discrete with profile information because of these dangerous possibilities.

How to protect yourself



- Limit the amount of personal information you provide (names, addresses, routines, etc.).
- Be aware of the information your friends post about you.
- Parents should review what their children are posting.
- Remember the internet is a public resource. Only

post information that you would be comfortable with anyone seeing.

- Be wary of strangers. It is easy for people to misrepresent themselves and the information that they post on these sites.
- Always check the site's privacy policy. The sites may share your information. The privacy policy may claim that your membership is your consent to share information.

Bottom line:

Always be SMART and CAUTIOUS

Questions or comments?

E-mail us at eSecurity@state.de.us