REVENGE PORN LAWS ON THE WAY?

PAUL LITHERLAND

Victoria has recently introduced legislation that will make it a crime to "intentionally distribute an intimate image of another person". This is a massive step forward toward what will hopefully be a significant drop in the number of teenagers who have had their intimate images posted online by a person they believed they could trust.

The internet is full of images of young people who have made the error of judgement to trust the person they sent it to. The combined words "Teen", "Nude" and "Selfie" can yield results in excess of 600 pages across a popular website, containing well over half a million photo's. Photo's of young people who believed the person they were sending it to could be trusted. This is the sad reality of "sexting" and the effect it can have on so many lives is far reaching. Many (if not most) teens fail to fully assess where their images may end up. Especially within an intimate relationship, many assume their images will be kept private, even after that relationship has ended. Sadly, this is so often not the case.

In Western Australia, any person who chooses to send on a 'nude' they have received from their partner really has nothing to fear from a criminal standpoint. Unless of course that image was of a child under the age of 16, which is a crime in Western Australia. But if the person is 16 and over, as far as police involvement goes, any person who chooses to send on such an image has little or nothing to worry about. This is a reality many have been confronted with in the state of Western Australia and what frustrated me greatly as a police officer.

The state of Victoria at least has had the courage to finally do something about this! Legislation introduced in late 2015, now makes it a crime in that state to distribute an intimate image. This finally pushes the onus on the person who receives the image to seriously consider the impact of sending it on to his or her mates. This is a massive step forward in shifting the accountability to those people who chose to distribute such images. It will always be very difficult to stop teenagers taking and sending nudes, but if we can at least minimise the distribution of such images then I think we will be halfway there.

My goal now is to get this legislation introduced into Western Australia and I am sure I can count on your support to make that happen.
PEOPLE KNOW BECAUSE WE TELL THEM

DURING ANY SURF ONLINE SAFE PRESENTATION MANY YOUNG PEOPLE OFTEN POSE THE QUESTION, “HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?”. THE ANSWER IS USUALLY VERY SIMPLE, I KNOW BECAUSE YOU TOLD ME.

With the rapid increase in social networking over the past decade, many people are not fully assessing how much information they are actually posting online. More importantly they are not understanding where their information is going and how it can be seen. This is especially relevant when it comes to children. Within Australia alone, there are close to 100 million images posted per day across our two most popular networks (Facebook and Instagram). So this is almost 1.6 thousand photo's per second. These are photo's telling people exactly what we are up to, where we are, what we like, what we don’t like and even what we are wearing. This is an amazing resource, which if looked at from a marketing perspective, is an absolute gold mine. Something as simple as a child posting an image of themselves in school uniform, can tell us so much about them. Their school, age, gender, location and so much more. Children are not appropriately assessing such posts and as a result they are putting themselves at risk. I am not saying don’t take photo’s, of course not! But assessing exactly how much information we are providing in our photo’s and comments is an important part of minimising our online footprint. A child can still take a photo at school and post it, but if you can’t see their uniform crest, they don’t take in an area that can be recognized and they don’t comment or tag the image as to where they are, then the chances of someone actually knowing where that image was taken is greatly reduced. It is important we all take such steps with all public information that we post. This way we can help keep our information and ourselves more secure from the risks of the online world. Assessing and understanding how online footprint is created and minimised must be important to all internet users and is strongly explained in a Surf Online Safe presentation.

SAFETY TIPS
HOW TO HELP MINIMISE THE RISK OF EXPOSURE TO NETWORK MARKETING

1. Turn off GPS or Location Services when posting online.
2. Avoid showing links to your location (home, school, work).
3. Become familiar with “Trackware” & how it works.
4. Do not post links or usernames of your other networks.
5. Never use the “Remember my password” button.
6. Open your FB in one Browser, whilst surfing on another.

SOFTWARE
DOWNLOADS TO HELP YOU STAY SAFE

CURBI - App owned in WA. Gives parents the ability to place sanctions on internet use & the time kids are online. It can also block Social Networking sites or put restrictions on the amount of time kids are on them. Please visit : www.curbi.com for more information

SSP - System Surveillance Pro - A paid App offering monitoring capabilities & modem restrictions : www.gpssoftdev.com for more information.


ONLINE LINKS
SOME USEFUL ONLINE RESOURCES TO HELP PARENTS & EDUCATORS.

Your Sphere - Numerous articles on the digital world : http://internet-safety.yoursphere.com

Cyber Smart - Govt resource website : http://www.cybersmart.gov.au

Wiki How - Good little website with heaps of tricks & tips : http://www.wikihow.com

Common Sense Media - Great unlimited resource centre : https://www.commonsensemedia.org/
I am regularly on the lookout for new initiatives and technologies to help me promote my message of online safety. Recently I met with the team at Dextera in Subiaco, who are the driving force behind a great product called ZuluDesk, a mobile device management system (MDM) for devices being used in schools. For many years now I have been waiting for a school specific device to be designed, however I am still waiting! ZuluDesk is set to be the next best thing and seeks to revolutionise how we approach tablet or device based education in schools. ZuluDesk makes classroom management for teachers easier by giving them the power to control what their students are doing on their devices during class. It can guide the students to stay on track, stay focused, and continue learning. Many schools in Perth are now BYOD (bring your own device) and as such, students are often distracted or tempted to do other things on their device whilst the lesson is in session. This can be very frustrating to a teacher and disruptive to the classes learning environment.

The fact that a teacher can be at the front of the class giving a lesson, trusting that all of his or her students are on exactly the same app or in exactly the same document, will be a massive selling point for this technology. Teachers will love it, because they can focus so much more on educating and that is a huge win for students, parents and teachers.

When outside of school time, the child will have full use of their device and can enjoy all aspects of its function, because at the end of the day, it is their device. But when at school, with the help of ZuluDesk, many areas and functions of the device are unable to be used. I believe this is the future of BYOD schooling and to be honest, I am excited!

So watch this space. MDM has finally had a real kick with the introduction of ZuluDesk and I can’t wait to see this technology continue to advance within Australia. For more information on ZuluDesk, please visit www.zuludesk.com. Or you can contact their Australian based re-seller Dextera by visiting www.dextera.it. You can also contact me anytime at paul.litherland@surfonlinesafe.com.au for more information on this great technology.

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**SOS IN THE MEDIA**

**PAUL LITHERLAND IS A REGULAR CONTRIBUTOR TO THE FAIRFAX MEDIA GROUP AND OTHER AGENCIES IN PERTH**

Paul is a regular contributor to the Perth media circuit. Sadly there are not many people in Perth with Paul’s knowledge & experience on matters of the online world & as such, he is often in strong demand to talk about what is affecting those in this state.

Paul is the resident Cyber Safety Expert on 6PR’s Morning Show with Gary Adshead, offering his knowledge on a very diverse number of online topics.

The information presented is always relevant & offers great insight for parents. For more information on Paul’s media appearances visit www.surfonlinesafe.com.au/media.

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**REVERSE IMAGE SEARCH**

**GOOGLE HAS A GOOD WAY OF SEEING WHAT OF YOURS IS OUT THERE**

Want to know if you can find any of your child’s images online? Google have a smart little cheat that might help you find some “indexed” images of them.

1. Open Google Search & click on the “images” option.
2. Go to your child’s Facebook account & open one of their photo’s.
3. Highlight, or “Left Click” the image & “Drag” it to the Google page & hover it over the search bar. Google will then tell you to “Drop Image Here”.
4. Release the photo & Google will then search the entire internet for that same image, or images similar to it.

After a few seconds, Google will return a list of sites where that image may have been found. If your child has a large online footprint, there is a chance you might find copies of their photo’s on other websites. For more information on “Indexing” visit www.surfonlinesafe.com.au and click on the Blog link to view my “Here we go again” article.
REPORTING - WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Many parents and students are unaware of where they can get help or resources for online matters. The two main areas where we can make a report online about what is happening to us personally or to someone we know, are ACORN and the eSafety Commission.

**ACORN** - The Australian Cybercrime Online Reporting Network (ACORN) is a national policing initiative of the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments. It is a national online system that allows the public to securely report instances of cybercrime. It will also provide advice to help people recognise and avoid common types of cybercrime.

ACORN has been designed to make it easier to report cybercrime and help develop a better understanding of the cybercrime affecting Australians. You can report anonymously through ACORN and I would encourage anyone who has experienced any online crime (including Cyber Bullying) to make a report. Please visit - www.acorn.gov.au.

**eSafety** - With the aim to help guide children and young people toward safe, enjoyable experiences online, the Office of the Children’s eSafety Commissioner hopes to encourage behavioural change – where Australian children and young people act responsibly online – just as they would offline.

Their goal is to create an environment in which cyberbullying is truly unacceptable. To achieve this, they hope to both educate and help prevent harmful online behaviour from occurring in the first place. There are also a large number of resources and a great deal of information for parents and kids on this website, so I would encourage you to sit down with your kids and have a walk through this great resource. Please visit - www.esafety.gov.au.

FEEDBACK

WHAT DID YOU THINK AND HOW CAN WE IMPROVE

Surf Online Safe is eager to get feedback from those who have seen one of our Cyber Safety Presentations. Paul Litherland is always looking to improve & adapt his presentations to keep up with the concerns of Parents & Educators. If there is some way we can improve on our service, then we would love to hear from you, your school or your children. At the end of the day, Paul’s ultimate goal is keep our kids safe online & we hope you can help us achieve that.

Email - paul.litherland@surfonlinesafe.com.au
Facebook - www.facebook.com/SurfOnlineSafe
Youtube - Surf Online Safe : SOS

ROUTER SETTINGS

A RELIABLE OPTION TO MAXIMISE CONTROL OVER THE INTERNET IN YOUR HOME

Many people spend a great deal of time & money on software to keep an eye on their kids or to restrict or monitor the homes internet use. One simple & very effective way to do this is through your Modem or Router. Many modern day Routers have very extensive capabilities to alter settings to devices that access the internet in the home. For between $150 to $250, you can purchase a quality router that will allow you numerous restriction settings. As an example, internet access to your teens phone or tablet could be restricted after a certain time at the click of a mouse, whilst a parents device or the PlayStation can still access the internet without restriction. Many also offer Parental Control settings directly through the device. Any decent computer store can point you in the right direction for such a device.