Impact of the Internet

… the Internet is arguably the most effective publishing and broadcasting medium that has ever been available to the general population.

Impact of the Internet

- Collaboration and sharing
- Publication medium and repository
- Online business
- "Old" crimes
- Internet-specific crimes
- Possibly unethical activities

Collaboration and sharing

- Collaborative publications (e.g., Wikipedia).
- Collaborative software development (e.g., Bugzilla, Sourceforge).
- Forums (e.g., Slashdot, OSnews).
- Personal telecast (e.g., youtube).
- Public-resource computing (e.g., SETI@home, GIMPS).
- Promotional user groups (e.g., TUG, LUG).

Publication medium and repository

- Search portals (e.g., Google).
- Directories (e.g., Free Software Directory, Open Directory Project).
- Archives (e.g., arXiv.org, Debian, CTAN).
- News (e.g., Distrowatch, BBC).
- Personal blogs.
- Personalized news feed.

Online business

- e.g., Amazon.com, eBay, iTunes.
- Use of web forms for purchase and payment.
- Immediate availability of software products (e.g., e-books, software, music).
- Need for trusted agents (e.g., Verisign).
- Digital cash (e.g., Paypal).
- Trading of virtual property (e.g., Project Entropia where a virtual island was purchased for £13,700 and a virtual space station for £57,000).
- Advertisements.

Computer crimes

- Unauthorised access (hacking)
- Theft: goods, information or money
- Theft of computer time
- Computer espionage
- Forgery and piracy
- Harassment and sexually-related material
- Identity theft
- Computer fraud

Internet-specific crimes

- Cracking.

- Malware.

- Web site defacement.

- Mail forgery.

- DOS attack.

Possibly unethical activities

- Spamming.

- Flaming (posting provoking messages).

- Trolling (posting disrupting messages).

- Inappropriate content.

- User tracking without knowledge/consent.

- Chain letters.

Good Practices - eForum

- Stick to the topic of the forum.

- Make your post brief. Don't turn the forum into a monologue.

- Use short paragraphs.

- Support your opinions.

- Be polite, especially when debating with other posters.

Good Practices - Email

- Careful choice of subject line; make it useful
- Careful choice of recipients in "To", "Cc" and "Bcc"
  - Use the "reply all" button with care
  - Use "bcc" to protect recipient's email address when it is unnecessary for others to know who have received the mail
- Keep it short, simple and straight to the point in appropriate tone
  - Don't write in all upper case because IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE SHOUTING
- Avoid attachment, especially large attachments clog inbox
- Look out for forgeries and hoaxes
  - Don't circulate chain letters
- Sign your email message at least with your name followed by a line of dashes; keep signatures to 6 lines or less