Teaching notes

This resource can be used to raise awareness of the importance of posting only appropriate information to social networking sites, maintaining a strong personal password and wireless security. It can also be used to help teach the concepts of encryption and decryption.

Explore

Stay Smart Online provides a 51-second video to stimulate discussion and valuable information about password and wireless security and social networking.

The e-safety games provide a start-off point for discussion. Although they are labelled as suitable for variety of age groups many are relevant to the issues covered by this resource.

The Winning Post is of particular interest although all the activities provide interesting stimulus.

Randall Munroe’s cartoons on password reuse and password strength use some complex language but raise important issues about your digital footprint as well as the need for having a strong password that you change frequently.

Your tasks

Task 1

This task consists of an exercise in guessing people’s passwords, given some information that they have posted online. The aim is to reinforce two messages: that you need to be aware of what is safe and unsafe for you to post, and that you need to understand the importance of having a strong password.

Task 2

This task links to a short article about how some private wireless networks were mapped and the locations published. Students are given a strategy for “unpacking” the important information from the article in a Word document that provides a reciprocal learning scaffold. The teacher may wish to substitute their own strategy for this exercise.
**Task 3**

Task 3 provides a simple explanation of methods used to encrypt data to protect it from theft. As well, students use a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet to encrypt a message which they are then asked to email to a classmate for decryption. The spreadsheet is locked, but teachers can unlock it if necessary using the password “Encryption” (case sensitive). This task contains a link to a more comprehensive resource if required.

**How to use this resource**

This resource, *Supersecrecy*, is designed to support the Digital Education Revolution – NSW (DER-NSW) program and has a specific orientation towards teaching *Digital Citizenship*. The resources and tasks are aimed at supporting student use of the DER-NSW laptops in both online and offline classroom environments.

If you have difficulty viewing this resource on the DER-NSW laptop screens you can switch your web browser to full screen mode. With your web browser open press F11 to switch between normal and full screen mode.

For more detailed support on how to use the DER-NSW laptop software referred to in this resource please visit the TaLe Tools+ site.