



### **Safe Text**

Unfortunately the same advances in computers and telecommunication, that allow us to reach out to new sources of knowledge and cultural experience, also leave us vulnerable to exploitation and harm by offenders. This is a function of the human social dynamic and not that of the underlying technology.

The problems encountered in social networking or other anonymous online communities typically fall into three categories: ID theft, fraud, and privacy abuses (stalking, harassment, sexual exploitation, etc.)

MXit provides a means of cost effective communication to all our users. We also provide services such as chat rooms and dating. Although we cannot control or monitor conversations between individual users, we can give them advice on safe online behavior. We therefore strongly recommend that you read the following, as well as our terms and conditions (available on the website).

**It is crucial to remember a few important online chatting rules. All you really need to do is keep your wits about you and trust your judgment, but as a guideline however, we offer a few key points of guidance:**

- 1** People on the Internet may not be who they say they are!
- 2** Please keep your phone number, MXit PIN, and residential address a secret.
- 3** Be careful not to reveal personal information about your friends or family to strangers. Everyone deserves their privacy!
- 4** If you're posting a profile on for instance our forum, don't include any info which could help to identify you offline. Your personal email address, mobile phone number, home or school address, a pictures of yourself; these all give strangers more information about you than you need or want them to know...
- 5** Keep your online relationships ONLINE! Even if you think you know your contacts well enough, we still strongly advise that you DO NOT meet offline with strangers. Pedophiles and other offenders are clever; they sometimes spend months gaining their victim's trust, before asking to meet with them.

**If you do however decide to meet with someone in real life...**

- 6** Always tell a loved one where you are going, who you are meeting, and when you will be back.
- 7** Meet in a public place.
- 8** Ideally, take a friend with you and have the other person do the same.
- 9** Do not invite anyone to your home or go to their home. Keep your distance until you feel you know them well enough.
- 10** Take your mobile phone along, and make sure it's fully charged and has calling credit. Get someone to call you at a pre-arranged time to check that everything is OK. This person can also act as your alibi, giving you an excuse to leave if necessary.



### **Children and parents; listen up!**

Kids under the age of 16 should only use moderated chat rooms. All MXit chat rooms are moderated by profanity filters. (The only exceptions are Alphacom, Boondocks, and Dark Mountain).

### **Remember:**

Do not give out personal information! If someone should ask for your phone number, home address, your school's name, etc. - Do not comply! Do not give out your Internet Service Provider's supplied email address either. There are several good anonymous email services available, like Hotmail. (Parents are also encouraged to monitor their children's emails for inappropriate content, regardless of which service they use!)

You have the right to say NO! If at any time you feel uncomfortable chatting with someone, either end the chat, log out of the room, tell the person you do not talk about certain things, tell a MXit chat room moderator/operator, or tell your parents! Don't allow harassment, ever! (For a list of commands, type '.help' while in a chat room. The '.ignore' function is likely to come in handy when someone is bothering you!)

### **A final word**

To all the youngsters out there; allow your parents to keep an eye out for you. No job is more important than being a parent; it is their right and duty to make sure that you're safe. Your parents might give you the freedom to talk privately with your friends, or even with strangers on MXit, but they still have the responsibility to make sure that your conversation stay clear from topics that could do you harm.

To the parents; we encourage you to get involved in your kids online lives. Take some real interest in what they do and see on the internet. Make them understand that you are merely there to guide and protect them.

To all; have fun online! Chatting is a great way to meet strangers and make new friends from around the world. Find people who share your interests, keep in touch with buddies from school, play online games; MXit can be used for all these fun activities, but remember...BE SAFE!

