



DTI eSecurity Newsletter - Dealing with Cyberbullies?

What is cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying refers to the practice of using technology to harass, or bully, someone else. Bullies are taking advantage of electronic media such as email, instant messaging, web pages, digital photos, computers, cell phones, PDAs, online games, and social networking sites to intimidate and harass their victims.

Forms of cyberbullying can range in severity from cruel or embarrassing rumors to threats, harassment, or stalking. Teenagers and young adults are common victims, and cyberbullying is a growing problem in schools.

How can you protect yourself?

- **Be very careful where you post personal information.**  
Limit the number of people who have access to your contact information or details about your interests, habits, or employment.
- **Avoid escalating the situation.**  
Responding to hostility is likely to provoke a bully and escalate the situation. Consider ignoring the situation.
- **Document the activity.**  
Keep a record of online activities, including relevant dates and times, in addition to archiving an electronic version. Consider printing a copy.
- **Report cyberbullying to the appropriate authorities.**  
If you are being harassed or threatened, report the activity to the local authorities. Good starting points are the local police department or FBI branch. Depending on the activity, it may also be appropriate to report it to school officials who may have separate policies for dealing with activities that involve students.

Produced by US-CERT

Game cyberbullies and griefers



**Griefers** are the internet equivalent of playground bullies, who find fun in embarrassing and pushing others around. They are also known as cyberbullies, snerts, cheese players, or twinks.

They bother kids while playing multiplayer video games online, such as *Halo 2*, *EverQuest*, *The Sims Online*, *SOCOM*, and *Star Wars Galaxies*.

Their behaviors include taunting others (especially beginners), thwarting fellow teammates in a game, using inappropriate language, cheating, blocking entryways, using the game to annoy a convenient target, or harassing a particular player who has reacted to their ill will.

The best way to deal with griefers is to educate yourself and prepare kids on how to deal with them on their own terms. Open discussion with kids is important for any online activity that they are involved in.

Tips for dealing with griefers

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1) Ignore them.                     | 6) Report game glitches.                 |
| 2) Change the game options.         | 7) Play games that limit griefers.       |
| 3) Create a private game.           | 8) Don't fight fire with fire.           |
| 4) Play on sites with strict rules. | 9) Avoid using provocative names.        |
| 5) Play another game.               | 10) Don't give out personal information. |



Delaware's [Stop Bullying Prevention Act](#) of 2006 provides a program for a safer learning environment for students who attend public and charter schools in Delaware.

Visit the [eSecurity Extranet website](#) for previous issues of eSecurity Newsletters

Questions or comments?  
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