

What has changed?

The number of homes with broadband access is increasing.

• One out of every two teens who use the Internet lives in a home with a broadband connection (Pew Internet, July 2005)

Teens and kids are spending more time online.

- Kids ages 2-11 spend an average 9 hours and 24 minutes online per month; 41% increase from 2003 (*Nielsen/Netratings, Oct. 2006*)
- Fifteen- to eighteen-year-olds average nearly 6.5 hours a day watching TV, playing video games, and surfing the Net-"media multi-tasking" (*Kaiser Family Foundation Survey, March 2005*)
- **51% of teenage** Internet users say they go **online on a daily basis.** (*Pew Internet, July 2005*)

What are kids doing online?

Social networking, video/music downloads and chat are big for teens.

- Nine out of the top 10 teen sites either offered content or tools for social networking site profiles, or were social networking sites themselves. (*Nielsen/Netratings, Oct. 2006*)
- **75% of online teens** or about two-thirds of all teenagers use instant messaging (IM) (*Pew Internet, July 2005*)
- Computer use for social networking activities has soared nearly threefold since 2000, to an average 1 hour and 22 minutes a day (*Kaiser Family Foundation Survey, March 2005*)
- Nearly half of online teens post something on Websites like Facebook or MySpace... (CBS News, June 2006)

What are the dangers and threats associated with today's Internet?

Online social networking, chat and video/music downloads create a new level of threats.

- **Top online consumer concerns:** 1) **predatory behavior** by strangers, and 2) **exposure to pornography** (*Webroot Parental Control Software Research, 2006*)
- More than **90% of kids** who meet an online predator in person **end up being abused** (*Wolak, 2004*)
- 76% of online sexual exploitation victims are found via social networking applications (chats, blogs, discussion boards) (Wolak, 2004)
- One in five U.S. teens say they have received an unwanted sexual solicitation via the Web. (Crimes Against Children Research Center)

How are online predators able to track down personal information about their victims?

Sharing personal information can be dangerous.

- 75% of children are willing to share personal information online about themselves and their family in exchange for goods and services. (*eMarketer*)
- 81% of parents of online teens say that teens aren't careful enough when giving out information about themselves online (*Pew Internet, March 2005*)

What options do parents have to deal with online issues?

Currently there are a number of resources for parents, including books, Websites and parental control software to help parents be engaged with their children's online activities. Check out **Webroot's Child Safe** parental control software. It is easy to use, blocks inappropriate content, provides great reporting and monitoring options as well as a scheduling option. For more information visit www.webroot.com.

