Cyberstalking: A force to be reckoned with

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Stalking definition

- Stalking involves harassment and threatening behavior that an individual engages in repeatedly.

Harassment Definition

Harassment is defined as a course of action that a reasonable person, in possession of the same information, would think causes another person to suffer emotional distress. (Bocj and McFarlane 2002)
Cyberstalking Definition(s)

- Harassment on the internet using various modes of transmission such as electronic mail (email), chat rooms, newsgroups, mail exploders, and the World Wide Web. (deirmenjian, 1999)

Cyberstalking Definition(s)

- A group of behaviors in which an individual, group of individuals or organization uses information technology to harass one or more individuals. Such behavior may include, but are not limited to the transmission of threats and false accusations, identity theft, data theft, damage to data or equipment, computer monitoring and the solicitation of minors for sexual purposes. (Bocj and McFarlane, 2002)

Dynamics Fostering Cyberstalking

- Low Cost
- Ease of use
- Anonymous nature
- Non-confrontational
- Impersonal
- Instantaneous

Cyber vs. Physical Stalking

**Similarities:**
- Majority of cases involve stalking former intimates
- Most victims are women; most stalkers are men
- Stalkers are generally motivated by the desire to control the victim

**Differences:**
- Offline stalking generally requires the perpetrator and the victim to be located in the same geographic area; cyberstalkers may be located across street or across the country
- Easier for cyberstalker to encourage third party harassment or threats
- Electronic communications lower the barrier to harassment and threats

Brief History

- 1999 – Vice President Al Gore
- Law enforcement agencies take seriously
- National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS) – cyberstalking
- FBI referral to U.S. Attorney’s Office
- Victim support groups

Law Enforcement Response

- 1999 New York Police Department’s Computer Investigation and Technology Unit estimated 40% of their caseload involve cyberstalking cases
- 1999 Los Angeles District Attorney’s Stalking and Threat Assessment Team estimated that 20% of their caseloads involved cyberstalking cases
Working to Halt Online Abuse (WHOA)

- In 2000, WHOA an online safety organization reported an average of 100 victim reports per week.
- 2000 – 2002 WHOA Collected Demographic data on cyberstalking reported to their site
  - 14.5% of male and 83.58% of female harassed online

WHOA stats continued....

- 30.54% between the ages of 18 - 30 years
- 16.58% between the ages of 31 - 40 years
- 6.90% 41 years and over
- 57.47% were white
- Next largest ethnic group Asians at 1.97%

WHOA 2008 STATS

- 21% of males Cyberstalked
- 71% of females Cyberstalked
- 35% between the ages of 18 - 30 years
- 23% between the ages of 31 - 40 years
- 32% 41 years and over
Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male Victims</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Victims</td>
<td>83.58%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 - 30 yrs</td>
<td>30.54%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 - 40 yrs</td>
<td>16.58%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41 yrs &amp; older</td>
<td>6.90%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Formal Research on Cyberstalking

- Spitzer and Hoobler (2002) - interviewed 235 college students
  - 59% of respondents felt they had been cyberstalked
  - Of which 19.6% felt threatened or feared for their personal safety

An Exploration of Predatory Behavior in Cyberspace

- Analysis of actual cyberstalking cases (50)
  - Most common method of initial contact by cyberstalkers was email
  - Followed by network access at work
  - Web discussion groups (bulletins, message boards, etc.)
  - Electronic dating sites and chat rooms
Study to Identify Typology of Cyberstalker

Study continued....

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ex-intimates</td>
<td>12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work contacts/colleagues</td>
<td>12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquaintances</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Alliance</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recent/met via internet</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Stranger</td>
<td>22.0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Social Networking Site

- The term ‘social networking site’ is the 21st century term for ‘virtual community’
- It is a group of people who use the Internet to communicate with each other about anything and everything

Social Networking Websites

43 Things Advogato BlackPlanet.com Bebo Bolt Blue Dot Broadcaster.com Blurtz CarDomain Care2 Classmates.com Consumating Couchsurfing Cyworld Dandelife Delhiii Dodgeball.com Flickr Facebox DonTStayIn Ecademy eSPIN Facebook Faceparty Flirtomatic Friends Reunited Friendster FUPEI GoPets Fruhstuckstreff Gaia Online Gazzag Geni.com Hi5 Graduates.com GreatestJournal Hyves imeem IMVU IRC-Galleria Jogs Bonito Last.fm LinkedIn Lounge
Social Networking Websites

LiveJournal     LunarStorm     MEETin     Meetup.com     MOG
MiGente.com     Multiply     MySpace     myYearbook     Nexopia
orkut     Passado     Phrasebase     Piczo     Playahead     Ryze
ProfileHeaven     RateItAll     Reunion.com     Ringo.com     Vox
Sconex     Sportsvite     Studiz     Stumbleupon     TagWorld
TakingITGlobal     The Student Center     Threadless    Tribe.net
Travellerspoint     Twitter     Vampire Freaks     WAYN     Xanga
WebBiographies     Windows Live Space     XING     Xuqa     Yelp
Yahoo!360     Zaadz

Social Networking Sites Go Mobile

Facebook - a popular site among college students has teamed up with Cingular, Sprint Nextel and Verizon..
Users can now post messages on their Facebook's homepages or search for other User's phone numbers and e-mail addresses
MySpace, the most popular site, has made a deal with wireless venture Heilo, Inc. that will allow MySpace Users to send photos and update their blogs by cell phone

Decoding Internet and Chat Room Lingo

POS - parent over shoulder     PIR - parent in room
P911 - parent alert            PAW - parents are watching
PAL - parents are listening    ASL - age/sex/location
KYF - kiss for you             MorF - male or female
KPC - keeping parents clueless ADR - address
HAK - hugs and kisses          ILU or ILY - I love you
KOTL - kiss on the lips        WUF - where are you from
WYCM - will you call me        SMEM - send me an e-mail
SMEM - send me an instant message
MOOS - member(s) of opposite sex
WYRN - what's your real name

source: theantidrug.com
Decoding Internet and Chat Room Lingo

LMI RL - let's meet in real life

Decoding Internet and Chat Room Lingo

:*( Crying ;) Winking

#-) Wiped out, partied all night

% {*} Inebriated % Hangover

8-# Death

:-d~ Heavy smoker :/ i No smoking

->< Puckered up to kiss

Decoding Internet and Chat Room Lingo

Pot/ Weed/ Bud/ Mary Jane/ Ganja = Marijuana
Kind Bud = An expensive and potent strain of marijuana
Blunt = Marijuana rolled into a Philly Blunt or similar type of cigar
Bong = A large water filtered pipe for smoking marijuana
Pharming = Raiding medical cabinets to trade and consume prescription drugs to get high
Robotripping = Drinking cough medicine to get high (from the brand name Robitussin)
Lean = Drinking prescription cough syrup mixed with painkillers and soda
O = Oxycontin
Tweaking = High on amphetamines
Blue Boogers = Snorting Adderall or Ritalin
Cyberstalking Behaviors

- Harassing/unsolicited emails
- False identity
- Post false information on websites, online forums, message boards, chat rooms, blogs
- Monitor victim’s online activity
- Attempt to locate victim’s IP Number
- Involve third parties
- Post victim’s contact information
- Post or send “enhanced” or “doctored” photos
- Order items or subscribe to magazines in the victim's name
- Identity theft

Stalking

**Texas Penal Code 42.072**

(1) the actor knows or reasonably believes the other will regard as threatening:
   (A) bodily injury or death for the other person;
   (B) bodily injury or death for a member of the other person's family or household;
   (C) that an offense will be committed against the other person's property;

(2) causes the other person or a member of the other person's family or household to be placed in fear of bodily injury or death or fear that an offense will be committed against the other person's property; and

(3) would cause a reasonable person to fear:
   (A) bodily injury or death for himself or herself;
   (B) bodily injury or death for a member of the person's family or household; or
   (C) than an offense will be committed against the person's property.
Harassment

(a) A person commits an offense if, with intent to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, or embarrass another, he:

1) initiates communication by telephone, in writing, or by electronic communication and in the course of the communication makes a comment, request, suggestion, or proposal that is obscene;

2) threatens, by telephone, in writing, or by electronic communication, in a manner reasonably likely to alarm the person receiving the threat, to inflict bodily injury on the person or to commit a felony against the person, a member of his family or household, or his property;

(b) In this section:

1) "Electronic communication" means a transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photoelectronic, or photo-optical system.

The term includes:

(1) [Continued]
Harassment

(A) a communication initiated by electronic mail, instant message, network call, or facsimile machine; and
(B) a communication made to a pager.

(2) “Family” and “household” have the meaning assigned by Chapter 71, Family Code

(3) “Obscene” means containing a patently offensive description of or a solicitation to commit an ultimate sex act, including sexual intercourse, masturbation, cunnilingus, fellatio, or angilings, or a description of an excretory function.

(C) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor, except that the offense is a Class A misdemeanor if the actor has previously been convicted under this section.

Online Harrassment
Penal Code Chapter 33 Section 33.07 (amended 2009)

Online Harrassment - (a) A person commits an offense if the person uses the name or persona of another person to create a web page on or to post one or more messages on a commercial social networking site:
1. without obtaining the other person’s consent and
2. with the intent to harm, defraud, intimidate or threaten any person

Online Harrassment - (b) A person commits an offense if the person sends an electronic mail, instant message, text message or similar communication that references a name, domain address, phone number or other item of identifying information belonging to any person:
Online Harrassment
Penal Code Chapter 33 Section 33.07 (amended 2009)

(1) without obtaining the other person’s consent:
(2) with the intent to cause a recipient of the communication to reasonably believe the other person authorized or transmitted the communication: and
(3) with the intent to harm or defraud any person.

Federal Laws

- Interstate Domestic Violence and Stalking (18 U.S.C. 2261)
- Interstate Stalking (18 U.S.C. 2261)
- Interstate Violation of a Protection Order (18 U.S.C. 2262)
- Interstate Communications For extortion and threats (18 U.S.C. 875)
- Obscene or Harassing Telephone Calls in the D.C. on in Interstate Foreign Communications (47 U.S.C. 223)

Challenges to Law Enforcement

- Acknowledgement
- Capacity
- Expertise
- Training
- Resources
- .....to name a few.
Issues to Consider

- Documentation
- Internet Evidence Gathering
- Relationships
- Civil Remedies

Assistance to Law Enforcement

- Cyber Angels
- Wired Safety.org
- Cyberlawenforcement.org
- www.safvic.org

Texas Law Enforcement Response

- Texas Cyber Research and Training Institute
- Office of the Attorney General - Cybercrimes Unit
- SAFVIC for Cybercrimes – 8 hour L.E. training (TCLEOSE 3266)
**MySpace**
- Hired former FBI Agent – Head of Security
- School Hotline
- Parent Hotline
- Law Enforcement Hotline

**Yahoo! Policies: Data Retention**

**Account Information**
- As long as account is active
- Deletion for inactivity after 18 mos.
- Deletion per User request: 90 day waiting period
- Yahoo! Recycles IDs

**Session Information**
- IP addresses associated with user log-in attempts are retained for 45 days

**Yahoo! Policies: Data Retention**

**E-mail Retention**
- Users control contents of their mail accounts
- Yahoo! not able to produce:
  - E-mails deleted by a user
  - E-mails sent but not saved by the user
- Yahoo! periodically deletes items in User’s trash folder
- Yahoo! deletes bulk mail after 30 days
- E-mail accounts may be set to inactive status after 4 months of inactivity and the contents of the may be deleted
Yahoo! Policies: Data Retention

Chat and IM
- Log information available for the last 10 days
- Include IP information, date and time, chat room or messenger IDs of persons communicated with
- Content not available from Yahoo!
- Users may archive content on their computers
  - First line of IM conversation not captured
  - Archives can be opened and read using the Yahoo! Chat or Messenger clients

Yahoo! Policies: Data Retention

Groups
- Content posted to a group is publicly available or through Yahoo!
- Deleted content of previous versions of a group are not available
- Logs show activity over the life of the group:
  - Subscriptions/unsubscriptions
  - Postings
  - Polls
  - Group options changes
- Data on groups that are deactivated/deleted are retained for 30 days

Yahoo! Policies: Data Retention

Photos
- Stored through Yahoo! Photos servers may be archived is requested pursuant to legal process

360°
- Content available as long as 360° page is active

Video Search
- Retain Yahoo! ID, date and time stamp and IP address associated with video upload
- If user-uploaded video is reported to NCMEC contents deleted from Yahoo! servers
When to contact Yahoo!

The sooner in your investigation the better they will be able to assist you

EX:

After receiving a child pornography report from NCMEC or any other source
A missing child case if it's suspected the child is meeting someone they were corresponding with via IM, chat or e-mail
Sexual predator case if you want to learn who else the predator contacted

Yahoo! Contact Info

- Yahoo! Fax line for service of process: 408-349-7941
- Yahoo! Compliance phone line: 408-349-3687 (to obtain copy of law enforcement guide)
- Yahoo! Security/Emergency Contact: 408-349-5400

XANGA

Subpoena information
Can provide detailed information on user name in response to a subpoena
fax (646) 224-800
Mark the subpoena as follows:
ATTN: LEGAL AFFAIRS
I include an e-mail address where the response can be transmitted

Contact: chris-help@xanga.com
XANGA

“We hold the original IP address (with time) upon registration of a site. In addition, we hold the e-mail address (all) of the account as well. We do not hold activity logs... only changes made to their password and email address as we log the IP. If a site is shut down, we still keep what was left on there for a few months (currently indefinitely, though we may change this to save server space). If the owner of the site deletes a posting using our Delete button, we have a hidden trash feature not many Users know about that still keeps the trashed post. It works similarly to a Windows trash icon, it's not fully deleted unless that trash has been cleared. However, if they directly alter the text and delete the text itself, it is officially off our database. In that case your best bet is to search the site off Google and click 'cached' were it might have an old copy of the site with the text you are looking for.

We do not notify the User when a subpoena is issued unless we are asked to do so. However, please note that many Users use third party 'counters' or 'trackers' and can see who has visited their site.”

Chris at Xanga
chris-help@xanga.com

NCMEC Reporting

Tips of Child Pornography are Reported to NCMEC ISO CyberTipLine as required by 42 U.S.C. 13032

Site are terminated at the time the Server receives the report
NCMEC Reporting

Information reported to NCMEC
Screen name/Server ID/e-mail address of user IP address
  IP and date/time of registration
  IP and date/time of photofile upload
Images
  Whether incident is under investigation by Law Enforcement

If you receive a NCMEC Report
Send preservation request to Server
User accounts are deactivated at the time a report is made to NCMEC
  deactivation preserves logs associated with the account content for the last 45 days
  Suspended Groups and other content may be deleted after 30 days
If upload IP was provided contact the user’s ISP to obtain identity information
Send appropriate legal process to the Server to obtain any additional information

If you receive a NCMEC Report
List all Groups the user is a member or owner/moderator
Groups
  Member lists
  messages (attachments are not archived)
  logs
  photos/files content
Images from a photo album or Group not submitted to NCMEC
Profile
List of User names on the User’s IM friends list
**CYBER-STALKING**

It is devastating to hear:

“Why don’t you just turn off your computer?”

“You can’t be hurt on the Internet - its just words”

“Are you sure you are not just over reacting?”

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**Risk Management**

E-mail Address: gender neutral e-mail address and printed or copied to disk

Phone calls logged for time and date, keep all voice messages

Written communication photocopied and kept

Profile: remove any information of a personal nature

Signature: that are attached to all outgoing mail

Headers: may contain information such as your name or e-mail address

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**Myspace Case**

SEMINOLE COUNTY, Fla. -- A local woman was stalked on a popular website and the Internet giant helped track down the suspect. The victim said her ex-boyfriend made the threatening statements on her MySpace page. The victim's MySpace page is set to private, but it does list her mood as "miserable." That would make sense, because in just the span of a few days her current boyfriend committed suicide and her ex-boyfriend was arrested Wednesday night for stalking her.

You have to be a "friend" to access Chasity Erickson's MySpace web page, but she doesn't allow anyone other than her ex-boyfriend to communicate with her. Authorities arrested Hutchinson at his home in Winter Park on Ellwood Drive less than 24 hours later, because they say investigators with MySpace helped them track the threatening statements on her MySpace page. The victim's MySpace page is set to private, but it does list her mood as "miserable." That would make sense, because in just the span of a few days her current boyfriend committed suicide and her ex-boyfriend was arrested Wednesday night for stalking her.

Hutchinson was arrested. "It is obviously a concern, since it's so close together. We Hutchinson was arrested. "It is obviously a concern, since it's so close together. We mile and, by that fact alone, we were able to have investigators knocking on this Hutchinson mile and, by that fact alone, we were able to have investigators knocking on this Springs, where Hutchinson worked. "Their investigators are willing to go the extra mile and, by that fact alone, we were able to have investigators knocking on this Springs, where Hutchinson worked. "Their investigators are willing to go the extra

Authorities arrested Hutchinson at his home in Winter Park on Ellwood Drive less than mile and, by that fact alone, we were able to have investigators knocking on this Hutchinson. "Their investigators are willing to go the extra

20
Remember

Stalking is not a sudden violent emotional outburst

IT'S IS AN OBSESSION

Online Stalker Simulation

The following slides are actual screen captures. Permission was granted by the parents to conduct the simulation. Personal information has been manipulated to protect the privacy of those involved.

I am intrigued by Amanda...
Most online or Internet service providers provide user directories to assist their members identify others with similar interests. In our nefarious but capable

we continue the search for Amanda by checking her Member Profile.

We type in her chatroom name...
Using the locate command, I can follow Amanda wherever she goes in the AOL environment.

and learn more.

I can also email or instant message her by using the email command.
After two minutes we have determined that Amanda is:

- is most likely a female child
- likes seashells, rollerblading and English class
- has a little brother that most likely answers to Billy, Junior or J.R.
- her valid email address

Using Deja News or AltaVista we can check for more information by searching.

Using the Power Search option we continue the inquiry.

Using Amanda’s email address, I search for any of her newsgroup postings.
I now know how many messages Amanda has posted; when and where the messages were posted, and the text of each message.

Subject: Looking for Dennis Babies
From: Amanda@999@aol.com
Date: 9/9/99
Message-ID: <19990909194651.1491009@ladder03.mowr.aol.com>
Newsgroups: alt.collecting.babies

I would like to trade for any retired beanie babies (must have tags). I received doubles as gifts. I am especially looking for Peace Bear, Brownie the Brownian, and Yarn the Ferretto (with smell).

If you are willing to sell any of these for $25 or less please call 419-746-0844 after 6:30pm EST.

You can fax to Amanda or mail. If you have other retired beanie babies you can e-mail me at Amanda@999@aol.com or just respond to this message.

Newsgroups are electronic bulletin boards.
Within 12 minutes I know:

- Amanda is her first name
- She is a young girl who likes beanie babies, rollerblading, and English class
- Has a Mom or sister named Sue
- Has a good idea when she’s at home
- She lives on the East Coast
- Her home telephone number

There are many online services that allow for searches using as little as one variable.

What can I find out about her from the telephone number?

I bet this Amanda’s last name...

Good news. Most of these services will allow you to change or eliminate your personal data from the directories.
What can I find out using Amanda's last name?

With each additional piece of information, I can perform additional searches.

I bet I can find out where she lives...
I'm not familiar with Laurel. Let's see if I get some better location information.

One click, I'm there.

Voila. I can even get closer.

But how do I get there from Chicago?
I wonder where she goes to school?
If the school posts student pictures on its web page, I could even get Amanda’s picture.

She’s probably home by 5:30 weekdays or Mom arrives home from work then.

She lives at 688 Hammerstone Drive in Laurel, Maryland.

Specific directions to her home.

What public schools are nearest to her home.

In 45 minutes I learned:
- Target is a female child.
- Her full name is Amanda Welch.
- The email address of Amanda@qmail.com.
- She likes seashells, rollerblading, and English class.
- She has a baby brother named Billy.
- She collects or trades beanie babies.
- Her home telephone number is 410 749-8456.
- She’s probably home by 5:30 weekdays.
- Or Mom arrives home from work then.
- She lives at 688 Hammerstone Drive, in Laurel, Maryland.
- Specific directions to her home.
- What public schools are nearest to her home.

Hi Amanda. I was just in the neighborhood and thought I’d drop by. Would you like to see my beanie baby collection?

Endangered Missing

ALKIA KOSZAKiewicz

Missing Parents: PETERBURGH

Date of Birth: 5/5/95

Weight: 140 lbs - 5'4

Age Now: 13 years

Such a great photograph of you from the time.

Anyone with information should contact
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
1-800-843-5678 (1-800-843-TIPS)

Philadelphia Police Department (5031-3916)
Missing teen found safe but tied up in Virginia townhouse

Authorities say abduction case began -- and was solved -- on the Internet

**Alicia Kozakiewicz**

For three days, authorities suspected that the mysterious disappearance of a 13-year-old Central American girl on New Year's Day was linked to her hometown -- but she proved her innocence to police and returned her home unharmed.

Yesterday, the same technology that had allowed Alicia to be tracked allowed authorities to track her to a townhouse in suburban Washington, D.C., where they found her tied up and alive but not severely hurt.

A half-hour later, at 4 p.m. EST, agents arrested Scott Tyree, 30, of Miami, Fla., a computer programmer who often hung out with teenagers and tied them up in his spare time.

**Crafton Heights, Tuesday, Jan. 1**

A 13-year-old Central American girl is reported missing from her home.

**Henderson, Va., yesterday**

Alicia Kozakiewicz is found alive in Scott Tyree's Henderson, Va., home.

**Suspect Scott Tyree: 'A classic long-haired computer guy'**
Resources

Specialized Training Services:
www.specializedtrainingservice.com
800-848-1226

Office of Violence Against Women
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo

Victims for Justice Coalition Stalker Information
www.wincom.net/vfj/vfjstalk.htm
519-972-0836

National Domestic Violence Hotline: 8000-799-7233
www.answers.com/topics/social-networking-site
Resources

www.projectsfeneighborhood.com
http://www.ncvc.org
www.taasa.org
http://www.vaw.umn.edu/library/
Women's Advocacy Project www.women-law.org
800-374-4673


Dr. Frank Kardasz, Sgt, Phoenix Police Department

Resources

Det. David Elting, Phoenix Police Department
www.azleg.gov/ars/13/00206.htm


Stalking in America, Nij, 1998

Thank You!

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