Safe and Secure in Cyberspace - How to Crack the Secrets of Cyber Code

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More on the Web
- Another guide from nnwebs.com
- netlingo.com
- One more from SearchWebServices.com

Parents have heard it time and again: Always watch your kids when they're online.

And to that advice, your kids may simply reply "P-O-S".

Or maybe "C-T-P-C".

Confused?

That's the point behind "cyber code." When you learned to type, you probably never learned the numbers row on the top in shift mode. We got by without knowing the ampersand, dollar sign, pound, percentage, and "at" symbols.

But now, kids use them everyday. And they're not discussing weight and dollar amounts.

If you want to chat online, you'll have to crack the code. Cyber code.

"For most kids it's just an innocent way to communicate with their friends" says linguistics professor Janet Bing.

Cyber slang is a series of abbreviations, symbols, and creative grammar.

"L-O-L": laugh out loud.
"TTYL": talk to you later
"DCW": doing class work
"M$": Microsoft

The cyber slang dictionary is endless and ever-changing.

And that's exactly the way young computer users want it.

Bing works to decypher this language-within-a-language.

"They want to have a language that parents don't understand. That goes way back. You can find that in Shakespeare's time. You get a specialized language and the idea is to keep some people in and some people out. Mostly, parents" Bing said.

In fact, moms and dads have earned special designations and special warnings in cyber slang.

"Rents or rentz" are just two terms for parents.
"PAW" means parents are watching.
"POS": parents over shoulder
"CTPC": can't talk, parents coming
"P911": parent emergency

But young users who really know the code may never have a reason to panic.

"Parents won't know what they're talking about, just like when they use slang, parents don't know what they're talking about."

Consider how quickly and covertly you can inquire someone's "A/L/S"?, their age, location, and sex.

Whether they're "M/F"?, male or female.

And if they'd like to "MIRL", meet in real life.

If you're "noob", a newbie, you may not have a cyber clue.

And even if you've got it figure out now, it'll change.

"Slang five years ago, by the time adults learn it, it's long gone. Text messaging abbreviations go just as fast."

Constant communication with youngsters or regular "121" is the only way to keep tabs.

Even if you're over their shoulder, you still may be "OTL" out to lunch.

You can go online to find "cyber lingo dictionaries" that decode letters and symbols you don't understand.

But remember - any given group of kids may invent its own slang.. And its own code.

That said - netlingo.com is a good place to learn basic shorthand.

We can get you there, and to other sites.

Just log on to wavy.com.