

## HUMANIZING TECHNOLOGY By Frank, *Your Computer Tutor*

Computers used to take up entire buildings, now they just take up our entire lives." - *Unknown*

### **PROTECT YOUR FAMILY FROM ONLINE PREDATORS**

The Internet is becoming an all too common meeting place for predators and victims. When you cannot even see a face or hear a voice, how are you going to recognize these vicious people? The information that follows can help you be proactive in helping to protect your loved-ones from predators.

#### **IDENTIFY REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS LIVING NEAR YOU**

<http://www.familywatchdog.us>

<http://www.nationalalertregistry.com>

These links will provide deep-structure safety tips info for you:

<http://wiredsafety.org/>

[http://wiredsafety.org/cyberstalking\\_harassment//index.html](http://wiredsafety.org/cyberstalking_harassment//index.html)

#### **PARENTAL CONTROL (CYBER BLOCKERS)**

Internet Filter Reviews 2006: Listed in order of rating:

<http://internet-filter-review.toptenreviews.com>

*ChatGard* & *Cyber Patrol* at <http://www.microsys.com> - prevents children from divulging personal information online! *Cyber Patrol* is the #1 Internet filtering software worldwide.

#### **HOW TO FIND YOUR KID'S ONLINE BLOG**

*MySpace.com*: go to <http://www.myspace.com>.

☞ Click *Browse* from the menu bar. Type-in your child's name or nickname in the search field – be sure the “*search MYSpace*” is checked. The important criteria are *age and location*. Search by your ZIP code.

☞ Click the “*Update*” button to see the results of your search. If that doesn't work, do this:

☞ Go to <http://www.myspace.com>. Click on the “*Sign Up*” link, fill out the form and click the orange “*Sign Up*” button - click the “*Skip for now*” to upload a picture. When asked to fill out another form, click “*Skip*”. You are now ready to search for your child. Click the “*Search*” button at the top of the screen.

☞ You can search for a profile by: 1) *Find A Friend* (search by name), 2) *Classmate Finder* (search by school name), and 3) *Affiliation for Networking* (search a group your child may be a part of). Fill out the form and click the “*Next*” icon.

☞ To refine your search, search by gender or child's age group - click on the “*Update*” button, and scroll down through the profiles. When you do find your child, click on the name under the photo, the profile (if listed) will then show up.

☞ If you are having trouble finding your child through the search, *you might want to consider finding your kid's friend* under the search. If you find one of the friends, click on their name, look at their profile, and find the link that reads “*View All of (NAME)'s Friends*” – then search the pictures of your child's friends for your child.

<http://LiveJournal.com>: requires an account for searching. If you're not comfortable creating an account, you can still try searching the site through Google Xanga.com

[Xanga \(http://www.xanga.com\)](http://www.xanga.com) offers searching to only paid members. You can search the site for free by trying the technique below.

Then, of course, there's Google. Google can do pretty well searching for only your child's first name and city. You can Google search *Xanga* or *MySpace* by entering "*site: [xanga.com](http://www.xanga.com) or [myspace.com](http://www.myspace.com)*". Follow that phrase with search terms like *age, location or interests*.

**! Good Luck & Happy Parenting !**

In the next issue we'll discuss issues less mental: what you need to do every 2 weeks to keep your machine running tip-top!

Mentor Frank Hare, M.A., has Hundreds of Happy Clients and manages Colorado-based BeyondTech, LCC: Services offered: custom-built computers & IN-HOME SERVICES: repairs, networking, Spyware & virus removal, 24/7. Call 303-575-1774 [frank@beyondtechnology.net](mailto:frank@beyondtechnology.net)