



Idaho Internet Crimes Against Children Coalition

May 12, 2017

PO Box 190242 • Boise ID 83719

Suspect Social Web Sites

Tinder – A Photo/ Messaging dating app for browsing pictures within a certain-mile radius of user’s location. It can be dangerous for teens to meet up with strangers within their geographic location.

Instagram – Lets users snap, edit and share photos as well as 15 second videos publicly or with network of followers. Public Photos is the default setting unless privacy settings are used. Private messaging is also an option through Instagram Direct. Teens can be on lookout for “Likes” or “Comments” as a measure of “success”, self-worth and popularity.

Snapchat – Lets users put time limit on photos/ videos sent before disappearing. Teens use to send embarrassing images believing they won’t go public. Persons receiving can take screen shot before image disappears and has also been hacked for recovery purposes. Makes “sexting” seem safe encouraging users to send sexual images; some of which have been used for extortion of sender commonly known as “Sextortion”.

Tumblr – Streaming scrapbook of texts, photos, and/or video/audio clip postings. Porn easy to find via raunchy, pornographic images & videos which often also depict violence, self-harm, drug use and offensive language. First profiles are public and viewable by any internet user with subsequent privacy settings only available via awkward workarounds. Posts are often copied and shared.

Kik-Messenger – A texting app that allows communication with strangers using their Kik usernames to find people to chat with. Also has a Kikcommunity blog where users can submit photos of themselves and screenshot messages; sometimes displaying user's full name. App allegedly used in high profile crimes including murder of 13 yr old girl.

Vine – App that lets users view and post looping 6 second video clips. It is full of inappropriate videos including nudity and drug use. Videos posted, accounts followed and comments made on videos are all public by default.

Burn Note – Text messaging app that erases messages after a set period of time. It allows kids to communicate covertly and can be sent to others that don't have the app. It can be used for hurtful messaging including bullying without remaining for identification of sender.

MeetMe: Chat and Meet New People – App has a “match” feature allowing users to “secretly admire” others and large user base can mean fast paced communication and guaranteed attention. It's an open network allowing chatting with whomever is online. It also has a search locally feature allowing location capabilities of user's mobile devices to find closest matches wherever they go. Detailed registration requires full name, age and zip code of applicant.

Omeagle – Chat app that puts two strangers together to text chat or in a video chat room. It allows anonymous users and uses “interest boxes” to connect users based on shared interests. There is no registration required and is filled with people searching for sexual oriented chats. Language is explicit and is done live or via links to porn sites.

Yik Yak – Free social networking app allowing posts to the 500 geographically nearest (1.5 mile radius) Yik Yak users. By default a user’s exact location is shown via GPS. This app has cyberbullying, explicit sexual content, unintended location sharing and exposure to explicit information about drugs and alcohol. It has also been used to threaten other school students forcing school lockdowns and more.

After School – Anonymous messaging app that allows messages tied to the users schools. Prevalent in South Central Idaho schools with messages that include nude student photos, derogatory comments and name calling of other students and staff. App not available to parents or adults as it requires student identification or driver’s license to enroll and can also be accessed via a student’s Facebook account. Often used for bullying other students at risk of suicide or other self- destructive behavior.

Calculator Plus – Secret messaging app disguised as harmless calculator app requiring a secret code to access. Used for transmitting messages hidden from parental supervision.

Grindr, Manhunt & Blendr – Grindr and Manhunt cater to men as a gay dating site while Blendr caters to both sexes. These are free apps, some which have location capability and require photos of users. heavily used by male predators intent on contacting users that are obvious minors and arranging a meet.

Video Games – Internet capability to play commonly used video games with strangers, some of whom are adult predators posing as child game players. Gamers are encouraged to engage in conversation and ultimately meet the other “gamer”.

Whisper – An anonymous social “confessional” app allowing users to post whatever intimate thoughts they have along with an image. Messages often “dark” and sexual in nature with many nude photos and accompanying shared secrets. Has a “hook up” feature encouraging users to exchange personal information and then meeting.

Skout – A flirting app that allows users to sign up as teens or adults. It encourages comment, posts, pictures chats with other users. Sends notifications of other users in their geographic area or if a user “checks” them out. There is no age verification of users allowing adults to contact teens and teens to contact adults.

Periscope; You Now: Broadcast, Chat & Watch – Lets kids stream and watch live broadcasts and comment or buy “gold bars” to give to other users. Goal is to get lots of viewers, start trending and grow you fan base. Users can do or say anything and can respond to viewers in real time. Lots of profanity and sharing of personal information with anonymous viewers. Often broadcast from bedrooms sharing intimate moments with strangers.

Pokemon-Go – Game feature is known as a “Lure” which allows predators/ criminals to set a location for a player to go to. Game tracks you and can access your photos and account information.

Musical.ly – This free to purchase app from iTunes allows users to create and share 15 second videos of themselves lip-syncing music and may also include dancing to the music. It is supposed to be restricted to age 13 and older due to drug use and sexual content; including nudity. It attracts child sexual predators requiring a “Private” setting to restrict recipients.

WhatsApp – Independent platform for exchanging unlimited text, audio, video and photo messages which are not recorded on phones and do not allow parental review.

Ask.fm – Used by teens to abuse and bully others anonymously. Linked to teen suicides around the world. Privacy settings cannot be increase and is easily integrated into Facebook and Twitter accounts.

MYLOL – Described as “Playground for Pedophiles and is a dating site for ages 13-25. It has messaging, video chat and photo impact and is a risk for fake accounts with older men targeting children through sexually explicit conversations. Logo is large orange square with white smiley face.

Roblox – Gaming site similar to Minecraft with a chat facility allowing strangers to message kids directly. It allows pedophiles to encourage a child to enter the bedroom of a house and have sexual interaction with their characters; all through sexually related dialogue.

This information is for distribution only in conjunction with presentations by the Idaho Internet Crimes Against Children Coalition.

