Cyber-Ethics Education (2):
Send Money

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As I explained in part one of this two-part series, Elizabeth Kennedy, Associate Director of the Cyber-Ethics Education Program at Norwich University, is a young woman with a mission. For the past year, she has been researching how children in our schools are being taught about the ethical uses of computers and networks.

Kennedy has gotten me involved in her projects, and you, the readers of this column, are invited to join in. I have published some simple articles on various dangers and ethical issues in the use of the Internet on my own Web site at <http://www.mekabay.com/cyberwatch/index.htm>:

- pedophiles
- online dating and cybersex
- hate groups
- pornography
- incorrect information
- hoaxes
- threats
- viruses and other malicious self-replicating code
- junk e-mail
- chain letters and Ponzi schemes
- get-rich-quick schemes
- stolen software
- stolen music and video
- plagiarism
- criminal hackers & hacktivists
- online auctions
- online gambling
- buying on the Web
- games
- spyware
- addiction
- theft of identity.

These articles can be freely reproduced and used within your own organization to sensitize your staff to safety on the Internet; this approach increases security awareness and can help get your staff to feel that they, too, are involved in security. Your staff can then bring the materials out into their own families and social groups, including schools, to help students, teachers, staff and administrators to understand some of the problems that we face on the information superhighway.
If you know anyone on the staff of your local community newspaper, please encourage them to reprint these articles freely.

In addition, Kennedy and I are planning a one-hour video in the form of an exciting news broadcast about these subjects that will be made available through her site. With the help of a professional broadcaster on a local cable TV channel in Vermont, I have already appeared in two test videos and they are being repeatedly broadcast on the local cable channel here in Vermont to much positive response by viewers.

Here’s how you can help. As an individual, if you like what Kennedy is doing and find the material I have published on my Web site to be useful to you in your own life and work, send Kennedy a contribution of $10 or more (checks made out to Norwich University Cyberethics; no cash please) to support her research project. She will list the people who are willing to have their name added to a roll of honor on her site.

In addition, I request that corporations which use any of my Web site materials for internal training be kind enough to send Kennedy a check made out to Norwich University Cyberethics for $100 if at all possible.

Our hope is that with your help, we can continue Kennedy’s work to spread this information to as many companies, schools, social organizations, families and children as possible. Corporate sponsors will be listed with gratitude in a special section of Kennedy’s Web site (always with permission).

To contribute to these efforts, make your check out to NORWICH UNIVERSITY CYBERETHICS and address it to Elizabeth Kennedy / Cyber-Ethics Program / Norwich University / 158 Harmon Drive / Northfield, VT 05663-1035. Kennedy’s phone number is 802-485-2250 and her e-mail address is <mailto: ekennedy@norwich.edu>.

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