Internet & The Service

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Introduction

* The internet is a series of connected computers and devices that allow sharing of communications and data amongst individuals and groups

* Began in 1960s by the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) within the department of defense

* First 2 nodes connected between UCLA school of engineering and SRI international in Menlo Park, CA in 1969

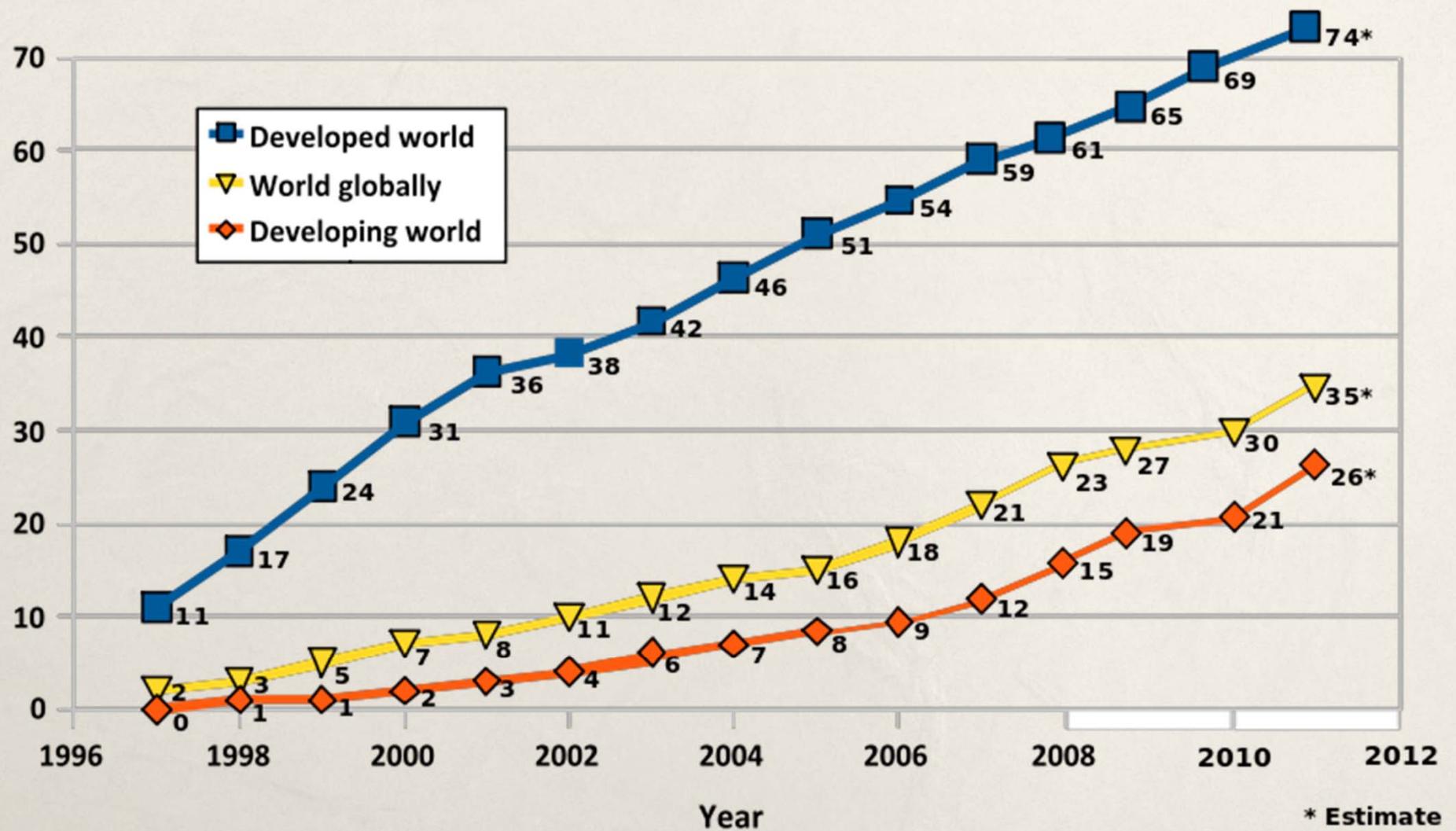* By 1971, 15 sites were connected
  * Rapid growth of ARPANet

Introduction

* In 1984, TCP/IP was standardized and the concept of the worldwide internet was born

* The growth of the internet since has been EXPLOSIVE!!!
  * Traffic on the public internet grew by 100% per year in 1990s
  * 2.1 billion users as of March 2011
    * 30% of world population
  * Internet carried 1% of information exchanged in 1993
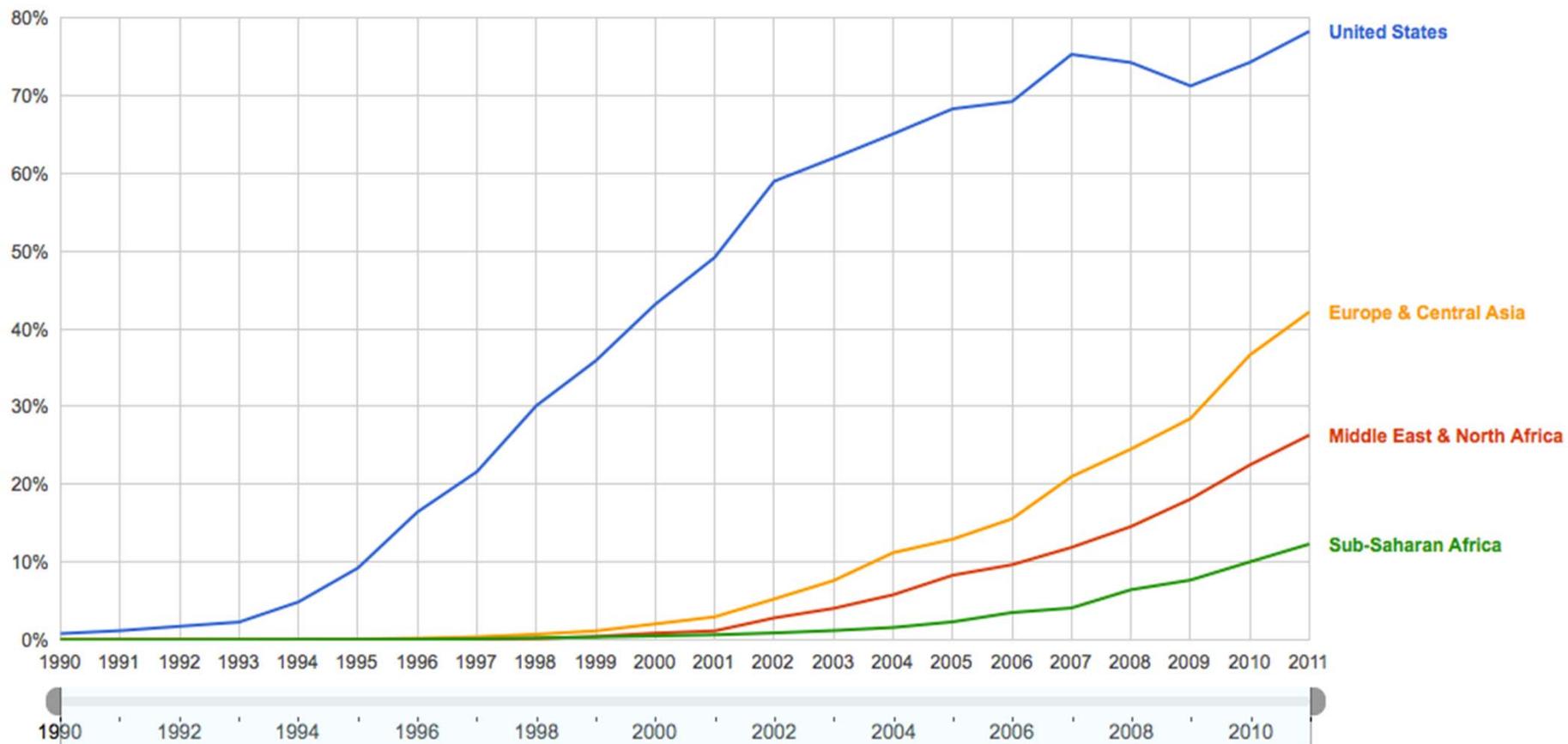   * 51% by 2000
    * 97% 2007

Introduction

* Services
  * WWW
  * Communications
    * Email
    * VoIP
    * Social Networking
  * Data Transfer
    * File sharing
    * Streaming media/Webcams

Internet users per 100 inhabitants
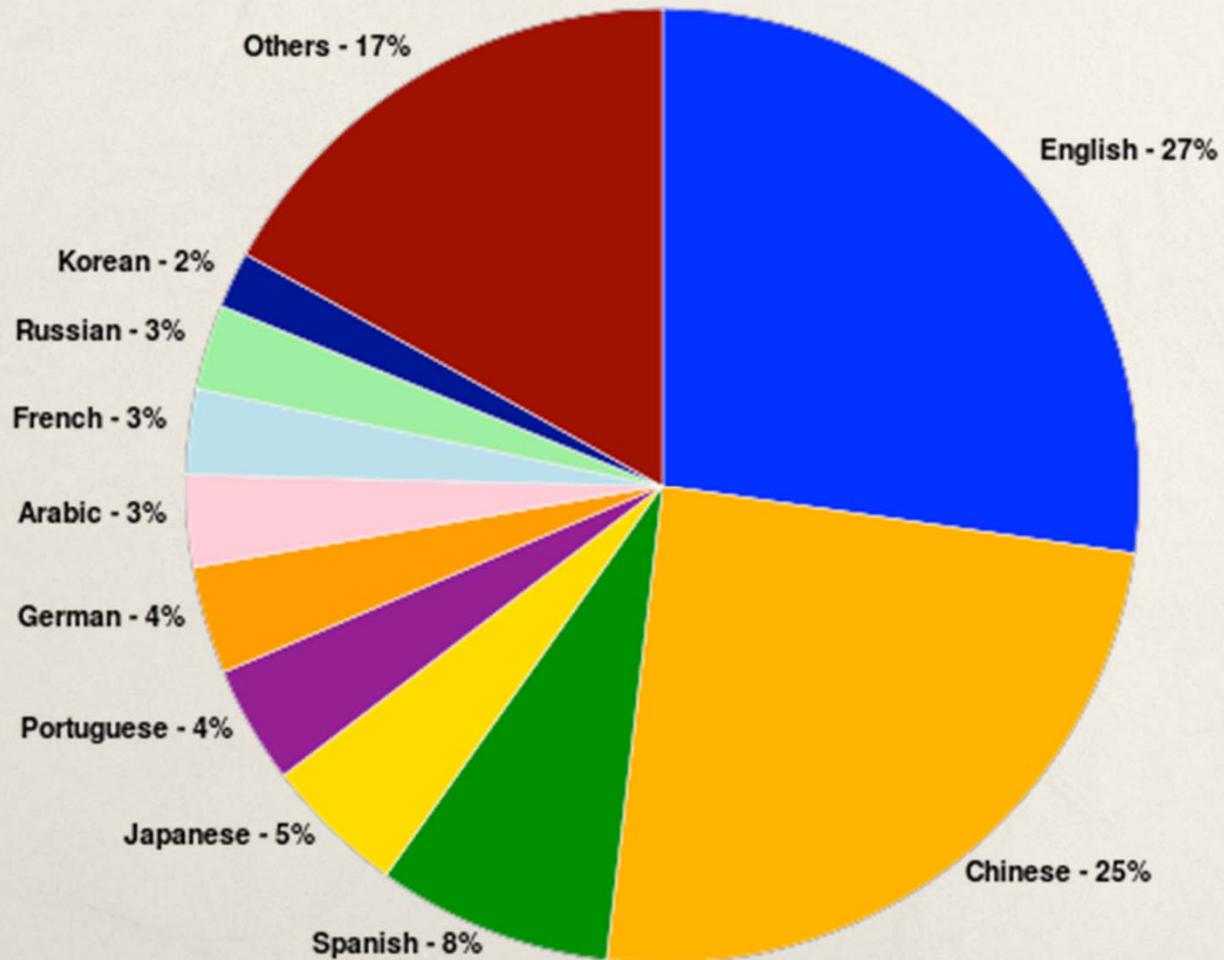
Internet users as percentage of population ?

United States

Europe & Central Asia

Middle East & North Africa

Sub-Saharan Africa

80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%

1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011

1990   1992   1994   1996   1998   2000   2002   2004   2006   2008   2010

Data from World Bank   Last updated: Jan 17, 2013

Internet users by language

Others - 17%
English - 27%
Korean - 2%
Russian - 3%
French - 3%
Arabic - 3%
German - 4%
Portuguese - 4%
Japanese - 5%
Spanish - 8%
Chinese - 25%

Internet & Teens

* **General Teen Social Media & Technology Stats**
  * 93% of teens ages 12-17 go online
  * 69% of teens have their own computer
  * 63% of teen internet users go online every day
  * 27% of teens use their phone to get online
  * 24% of teens with a game console use it to go online
  * 73% of teens are on a social network
  * The average teen has 201 Facebook friends
  * 37% send messages to friends every day
  * 8% of American teens use Twitter
  * Online gaming site Roiworld surveyed 600 teens ages 13 to 17 in late April 2010 and found that teens spend two hours per day online on average, 80% of which is spent using a social network
  * As many as 7.5 million Facebook users in the U.S. are under age 13 -- a violation of Facebook's user policies

Internet & Teens

* **Teens and Cell Phones**
    * A 2010 Pew Internet Project survey found that 75% of those ages 12-17 have cell phones, up from 45% in 2004.
        * Of the 75% of teens who have cell phones: 83% use their phones to take pictures, 64% share pictures with others, 60% play music on their phones, 46% play games on their phones
    * According to comScore, as of June there were 234 million U.S. cell-phone subscribers 13 and older, and about 33% of these were smartphone owners
    * According to market research firm the Yankee Group, 54 percent of 8 to 12 year olds will have cell phones within the next three years

Internet & Teens

* **What Teens do on Social Network Sites**

  * 86% of social network-using teens comment on a friend's wall

  * 83% comment on friends' pictures

  * 66% send private messages to friends

  * 58% send IM or text messages using the site

  * 52% send group messages

Internet & Teens

* **Bullying & Sexting**
  * 55% of teens have given out personal info to someone they don't know, including photos and physical descriptions
  * 29% of teens have posted mean info, embarrassing photos or spread rumors about someone
  * 29% have been stalked or contacted by a stranger or someone they don't know
  * 24% have had private or embarrassing info made public without their permission
  * 22% have been cyberpranked
  * 56% of teens say they have been the target of some type of online harassment
  * <u>**15% percent of the young people surveyed say they have sent nude photos or videos of themselves**</u>
  * 21% say they've received nude photos or videos from others. <u>**About half of those involved say they felt pressured to do so**</u>
  * 41% have experienced some form of digital dating abuse — including checking in multiple times a day, reading messages without permission, pressuring others to respond to messages or spreading rumors

Dangers

* The content is extreme
  * Far worse than anything on cable TV, movies or magazines
  * All forms of extreme pervasion are on open display
  * Due to absence of censorship and decentralized content

* It is used in private
  * Alone, behind closed doors (office, bedroom)
  * Great temptation, little accountability

* The danger is immediate
  * Only a click away
  * Legitimate research to terrible sin in a click
  * Ever typed the wrong URL in the address bar??!!

Dangers

* The risk is pervasive
  * Bad content is not easy to find, its HARD TO AVOID!!!
  * SPAM offers everything from people begging to deposit millions of dollars in your account, to neighbors wanting to have a secret relationship

* Users are anonymous
  * The internet allows people to pretend to be anything they want to be
  * 12 year old girl having an online conversation with your sister/daughter may very well be a middle aged man

* Captivating
  * There is so much useful and interesting information
  * Can consume so much time and sometimes money

Biblical Warnings

* No one is above temptation
  * Proverbs 7:26 says, "Many strong men have been slain by her [the harlot]."
  * David, the man after God's own heart, committed adultery.
  * Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, let women turn his heart from the Lord.
  * Samson, the strongest man who ever lived, ruined his life through immoral relationships.
  * "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall." 1 Corinthians 10:12
  * Jeremiah 17:9 says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

Biblical Warnings

* Secret things are a special danger
  * Proverbs 9:17 says, "Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant. But the dead are there."
  * Ezekiel 8:12 says, "Then He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the room of his idols? For they say, 'The LORD does not see us, the LORD has forsaken the land.'"
  * The story of Susannah

* The devil actively traps people
  * 1 Peter 5:8 says, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."
  * You may sincerely intend never to go seeking wicked things on the Internet, but be assured that someday the devil will bring it to you.
  * The strange woman "*was* outside, at times in the open square, lurking at every corner" (Proverbs 7:12) to catch a young man.

Biblical Warnings

* Electronic relationships are distorted
  * People say things in e-mail and chat rooms that they would never say in person.
  * People develop relationships that would never happen in normal social settings.
  * In Exodus 33:11 God says that "face to face" is the way friends speak.
    * "So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend."
  * Paul wrote lengthy letters to the Corinthian church but left some problems to be handled in person (1 Cor. 11:34).
    * "And the rest I will set in order when I come"
  * "Having many things to write to you, I did not wish *to do so* with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face." 2 John 1:12
  * The internet is useful for communicating with people you already know, but beware of the relationships that develop solely through the computer.

Biblical Warnings

* Exposure to evil is harmful to your spirit

  * St Peter spoke of Lot in Sodom saying, "that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented *his* righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing *their* lawless deeds." 2 Peter 2:8

* Evil thoughts are sin

  * "Just looking" is NOT OK

  * "But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart." Matthew 5:28

  * St Peter said to Simon "Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you." Acts 8:22

Pitfalls

* Time
  * "For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. "James 4:14
  * Our remaining time on earth is being constantly depleted, **second by second**
  * The realization that time is a resource, requires us to use our time wisely
  * Time is a resource given to us by God, some are given more than others
    * "For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more." Luke 12:48

Pitfalls

* Time

  * "LORD, make me to know my end,
    And what *is* the measure of my days,
    That I may know how frail I *am*.
    [5] Indeed, You have made my days *as* handbreadths,
    And my age *is* as nothing before You;
    Certainly every man at his best state *is* but vapor." Ps 39:4-5

  * HH Pope Shenouda III

    * "The spiritual understanding of spare time is not to find ways to KILL TIME, but rather to find ways to make this time productive. Time is a part of life, and you should not waste or kill it. Otherwise, your life would be considered cheap and your time without value."

    * Methuselah lived 969 years and the Bible does not mention what he did. John the Baptist prepared the Lord's way despite living a short life.

Pitfalls

* Addiction
  * Stanford University research
    * Almost 12½ % often or very often were online longer than they intended
    * The same number had seen a need to cut back on Internet use at some point
    * Close to 9% tried to hide needless Internet use of the internet from their bosses , friends and family
    * Nearly 6% said that their relationships suffered as a result of too much time spent online
    * Over 8 % used the Internet as a method of escaping problems or to ease a negative frame of mind
    * Over 13½ % of people found it hard to stay away from the Internet for more than a few days

Pitfalls

* Addiction
  * to cause to become physiologically or psychologically dependent on a habit-forming substance
  * "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. " 1 Corinthians 6:12
  * "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. " 1 Corinthians 6:9,10

Pitfalls

* Addiction
    * The second definition of addiction is "to occupy (oneself) with or involve (oneself) in something habitually or compulsively."
    * We are to "love the Lord, your God, with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might" Deuteronomy 6:5

Conclusion

* **Remember that privacy is an illusion**

    * Your ISP knows what you look at.

    * Your browser keeps a history of what you look at.

    * Every site you visit knows you were there.

    * The Internet passes information through many computers on their way to you, and every computer along the way can know.

    * God knows. Hebrews 4:13 reminds us, "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do."

Conclusion

* **Avoid all forms of evil**
  * The Internet is not the only place you will encounter inappropriate images.
  * Magazine racks, newspaper ads, TV commercials, and billboards can all present a constant drain on your spirit.
  * Don't needlessly expose yourself to any of it.
  * Psalm 101:3 says, "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes."
  * Job 31:1, "I made a covenant with mine eyes."
  * **Don't become desensitized to evil.**

* **Avoid temptation**
  * Joseph stayed away from a dangerous situation. Genesis 39:10 says he refused even "to be with her [Potiphar's wife]."
  * Delete suspicious looking e-mail without reading it.
  * Use filtering and blocking software to help you minimize encounters with tempting materials.
  * Use high quality search engines to minimize tempting links.

Conclusion

* **Concentrate on your relationship with your spouse**
  * Proverbs 5:19 advises men to find their joy and fulfillment in their own wife only.
  * The principle also applies to singles - do not do anything that will damage a future relationship.

* **Guard your testimony**
  * Even if you never access anything inappropriate, what will people think if they know you use the Internet in an unsafe way?
  * Do not give anyone reason to question your integrity.
  * Set a good example for your children and for fellow Christians.
  * David said, "I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way" (Psalm 101:2)

Conclusion

* **Know yourself**

    * When you recognize a weakness, deal with it strongly.

    * If pornography is an area of special weakness for you, don't have the Internet in your home or set your computers in an open area

        * "And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast *it* from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire" (Matthew 18:9)

* **Take steps in advance**

    * Daniel "purposed in his heart" not to defile himself (Daniel 1:8).

    * Proverbs 22:3 says, "A prudent *man* foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished."

Conclusion

* **Children must have parental supervision**
  * Nearly everyone knowledgeable about the Internet, including secular people, recommends that children not use the Internet unsupervised.
  * This applies to children of all ages including (perhaps especially) teenagers.
  * The dangers are too numerous and the technical solutions too imperfect to take chances.
  * Make sure your Internet access is protected with a password you are sure your kids don't know.
  * Never let them browse the web alone, at your house or at a friend's house.
  * Monitor their emails/facebook/twitter accounts.
  * **<u>Don't underestimate your kid's technical expertise or susceptibility to temptation.</u>**
  * Place the computer in a public room of your house to make it easy to supervise.
  * Educate your kids about the dangers and establish clear guidelines.