A. Dmytryk, student
O. Semikina, Senior Lecturer, language adviser
Tavria State Agrotechnological University, Melitopol

INTERNET THREATS AND SOFTWARE FOR THEIR BLOCKING

The goal of this study was to investigate teenagers' involvement into internet activities, threats, which they can face, and technological ways of preventing the threats.

Information technologies have rapidly entered various areas of modern life, extending communication, spatial and temporal boundaries, opened new opportunities for communication, education, work, leisure and creative self-fulfillment. Along with adults, children became active Internet users. There are many online resources for development, education and entertainment of children. The Internet has become an active assistant for children and teenagers with homework, projects, movie watching and communication. Internet activities of children are studied by sociologists, educators, IT technologists and others. According to the latest public opinion surveys the greatest amount of time spent by a child on the Internet (52%) accounts for social networking, the lowest (9%) - for search of information for studies [1].

Though online activities become an effective educational and communicational tool, children can facet here such threats such as:

- criminals on the Internet establishing contact with kids in chat rooms, via instant messaging, emails or the forums;
- viruses, worms and "Trojans" - computer programs that can harm a computer and data stored on it. These programs can also use the recipient's computer to spread their copies on other users' computers
- phishing - the activity of defrauding an online account holder of financial information by posing as a legitimate company;
- internet fraud - used by hackers technique, which is that a false email includes a link that leads the user to a fraudulent site for passwords, credit card numbers and other sensitive information, which can then be used to harm for the user [2];
- gambling – playing games for money;
- online piracy - the illegal copying and distribution (both for business and personal purposes) materials protected by copyright, such as music, movies, games or applications - without permission.
- trolling - placing messages intended to foment conflict between users in forums, chat rooms, in comments to entries in blogs;
- materials of pornographic, insensitive content, materials of suicidal direction.

An open Internet is unsafe for children, and parenting in this digital age is difficult. Taking it into consideration IT companies provide parents with a wide range of tools to control unwanted content and a safe Internet for their families. The software they develop can block web sites in more than 70 categories, including pornography, gambling, drugs, violence/hate/racism, malware/spyware, phishing, force safe search on all major search engines, set time restrictions to block web access during designated times

Very helpful in this respect is designing by leading IT companies of new equipment for preventing harmful effect of the above-mentioned threats. The software available makes parental control possible and effective.

Due to them parents can help their kids stay safe online by setting up child accounts for them and adding them to your family at account.microsoft.com/family. This can make adults sure that their kids d onot see any websites, apps, or games that are inappropriate for their age. Adults can view reports of their online activity, and help them establish good habits by setting up limits on how long and when they can be spending time with their screens [3].

Another way is creating a Supervised User accounts on the Chrome browser that allows to set limits for the websites children can visit, as well as to keep a log of their online habits. For Android tablet it is a similar feature called a Restricted User account.

Another useful setting is a Screen Time. As the name suggests, this is a way to control how long a child can use the PC on any given day. Once you have turned on the Set limits for when your child can use devices option you will be able to click on the grid below to set certain times each day that the account will allow access. The granular method means you can adjust it so that they have more, or less, time on the weekends, and what hour of the evening they have to stop in the week.

Web Browsing setting is a content filter that once enabled will protect a child from inappropriate sites and media. It also allows adding a further level of control by choosing the *Only websites on the allowed list* option, where parents can then enter which sites they are allowed to visit, and ones that are forbidden [3]

This setting filters the content that the child can access in the Windows store. The general setting blocks adult content, while the child can buy, then download or stream apps, games and media appropriate for: option allows you to set the specific age of content from a drop down menu [2].

The results of the investigation done show that development of software is an effective tool against internet threats.

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