Learning
the
Information
Ethics

Use the Internet Properly
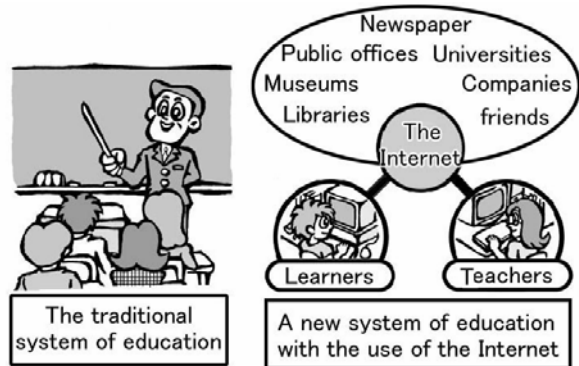
- - - If you do not want to harm someone

nor be harmed by someone- - -

The Light and Dark Sides of the Internet

The Internet has become very common and also very convenient. It can even make our lives better. As an example, through e-mail, you can exchange information with many people at the same time.   Also, by clicking on web sites, you can find any interesting information and can buy almost anything.   Through creating a web site, you can provide information to the world.

The traditional system of education

A new system of education with the use of the Internet

Although it is useful and convenient, the Internet also has dangers. Many unfavorable cases relating to the Internet have often been reported. When ordering and paying for something from an e-shop on line, for example, you may not receive what you ordered, and you may not find that site anymore.   There have also been cases where people have received accounts for purchases which they did not make.

When you communicate on the Internet, there are no requirements to identify yourself.   This anonymity allows each user less responsibility which can lead to delivering false information or even offending somebody. Have you ever experienced Internet problems such as these?

The site suddenly disappeared.

Imagine a child trying to ride a bicycle for the first time. This child is usually taught in a private space, such as a park, a backyard and so on.   Over the course of time, the child becomes able to ride it.   Is it then all right for that child to ride the bicycle on the public road?   Everybody knows this is more dangerous.   It is not more dangerous because the child's riding technique is not good enough. It is because more serious accidents can occur unless you know the rules and manners of riding.   Riding a bicycle is convenient, but we must also be aware of dangers.

Using the Internet is similar to riding a bicycle.   We really should know the dangers as well as the conveniences with regard to the Internet so that we do not get into or create trouble.

Prefaced from *Internet no hikari to kage,* published by Kitaojishobo.
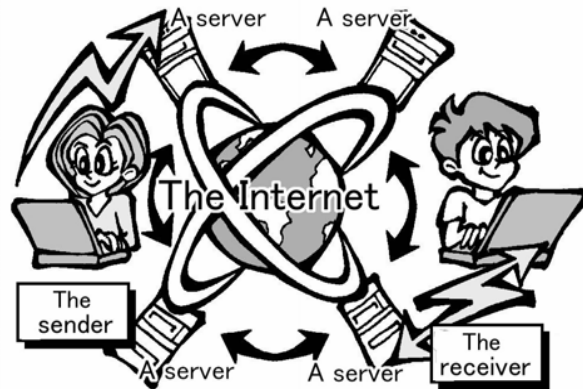
What can we do with the Internet?

<Web Pages>
Searching for Information

You can find information you need or are interested in anytime through the use of a search engine.

Providing Information

Through creating home pages, you can provide others with your own insights.

Online Shopping

You can browse, order and pay for something you want through Internet web pages.

<E-mail>
Exchanging Information

Electronic Mail (e-mail) is a system that allows you to send and receive messages with computers. Messages can be sent easily and received immediately. Also, the same message can be sent to many recipients at the same time.
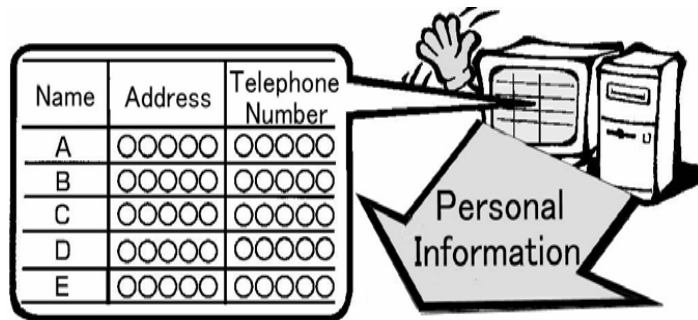
Mailing List

A mailing list can be created to store names and e-mail addresses for the purpose of sending one message to all recipients in that group.

What is hazardous on the Internet?

<Leaking of Private Information>

Private information can include your name, home address, telephone number, the name of your work place, sex, age and so on. Cases of private information being leaked and invasion of personal privacy have increased due to the Internet.

<Copyright Infringements>

Intellectual property is something that someone has invented or has the right to make or sell, especially something protected by a patent, trademark or copyright. When using the Internet, careful consideration must be given to copyrighted properties.
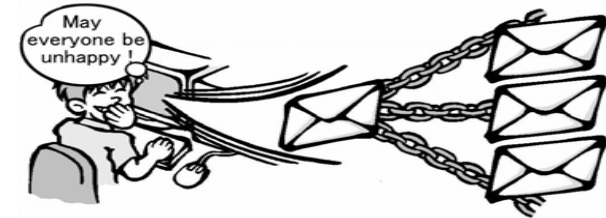
The development of information technology and the prevalence of the Internet have made it easier to infringe copyrights due to the ease of editing and copying.

<Troubles with Online Shopping>

As the number of people buying something online increases, more people have been getting into trouble. The number of these cases is increasing every year.

<Computer Viruses>

A computer Virus is a set of instructions secretly put into a computer or a computer program, that can destroy information stored there and possibly the system.

<Chain Mail>

Chain mail is an internet version of a chain letter. Sending chain mail via e-mail does not use much money or time. A chain mail can be sent anywhere in no time at all.

<Illegal Sales of Goods >

Some home pages may sell goods illegally, for example, sleeping pills.

<Hazardous Information>

Children may encounter web sites, such as pornography, violent acts, and advertisements, all of which can have a bad influence on them.

Searching for and providing information

<Is the Information Reliable?>

When searching for information, you use an Internet search engine. It is important to decide whether the information is reliable or not.

<Examples of Private Information being Leaked>

When you sign up with an Internet service provider, you must give your credit card number as well as other personal information, such as your home address, name, telephone number and so on. Lists with this private information can be accessed in the web pages of each provider.

When you answer an online questionnaire with prizes, you are requested to give your home address, telephone number and so on.   Lists with this private information can be also sent to other companies not related to the questionnaire.

<Examples of Copyright Infringement>

You may not be allowed to download newspaper or magazine articles and distribute them to many people without permission.

Downloading games from illegal web sites is regarded as an illegal act.

It is illegal to post a song on a web page without permission while the writer's copyright is in effect.

<Unacceptable Web Pages>

The content of the page is not understandable.

The information on the page is not up to date.

The page has graphics which takes a long time to display.

The page has garbled characters.

The specifications have not been taken into account for different types of computers, so the page cannot be seen on all computers.

The page reveals personal details.

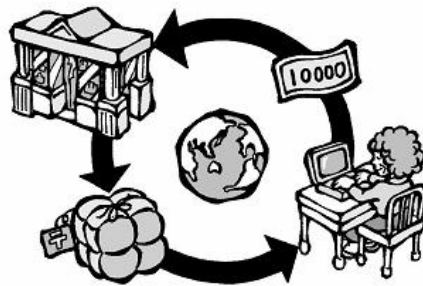The page links to a site which is hazardous.

example of a garbled web page

E-mail and Communication

<Netiquette in E-mail>

Respect others' privacy.

Do not violate copyright.

The subject should be simple and easy to understand.

Different types of computers should be taken into account.

Size of attachments should be considered.

<Mails Formatted with HTML >

If you send an HTML mail, remember that the document cannot always be read by the recipient. This can occur if the recipient does not have the same application software, even if using the same type of computer.

example of an illegible HTML mail

<Maintaining E-mail Privacy>

"Cc" stands for 'carbon copy' which means you can copy the same message to other people with revealing their addresses. "Bcc" stands for 'blind carbon copy' which means you can copy the same message to other people without revealing their addresses.

```
Date: Mon, 12 May 2003 15:40:39 +0900    JST
Message-Id: <200005010640.PAA04765@abcde.kk.ppppp.ac.jp>
From: pikachu@abcde.ppppp.ac.jp
To: pocket@monster.ggg.ne.jp
Cc: pikachu@abcde.ppppp.ac.jp,raichu@ooo.osaka-uuu.ac.jp
Subject: Re: =ethics on the internet
In-Reply-To: Your message of Mon, 12 May 2003 14:49:06 +0900,
<000701bfb330$f6b7b560$7632a8c0@ooo.osaka-uuu.ac.jp >
```

example of a mail header

<Chain Mails>

If an e-mail warning of computer virus is received, it should not be forwarded to others.

example

```
According to xx(a well-known computer company),
the mail titled XXX is infected with a computer
virus.   Please forward this message as many
people as possible.
```

Internet Shopping

<Features of Internet Shopping>

  You can buy goods from home.

  Goods around the world can be delivered to your door.

  Privacy of personal details can be a concern.

  A bought item may not fully resemble your image of the item and the seller could remain anonymous.

<Examples of Trouble>

  In spite of paying in advance, you cannot get what you ordered.

  The item you received is different from what you ordered.

  You cannot contact the catalog retailer, and the web page disappeared.

<Points to Consider>

  Check the shop is authentic. (i.e., make sure it exists.)

  Confirm payment and delivery method.

  Check security measures (Especially when private information is requested. e.g., credit card number)

Security and Self-Responsibility

<Choosing Passwords>

  Do not use account names.

  Do not use words easy to guess.

  Use a complex series of numbers and special characters.

<Preventing Virus Infection>

  Constantly Check for viruses.

  Do not open unknown e-mails or e-mail attachments.

  Research information about viruses through the Internet.

  Regularly back up the data on your computer.

**example of
a computer virus**

Information-technology
Promotion Agency, Japan
Security Center
http://www.ipa.go.jp/security/

<Be responsible for your computer>

  Your carelessness may result in serious problems, for not only you but also others.

Have you ever done these things?

Infringement of Copyright

Illegal Copy

Using information from the Internet and pretending to write it by yourself is an infringement of copyright.

When you use information on a web, you should mention at least the URL, who made the web and when you accessed it.

Copying someone else's work without permission can be a violation of copyright.

Even your friend's work should be protected by copyright.

Have you ever done these things?

Spoofing

Unauthorized Use

Accessing e-mail with someone else's ID and password is illegal.

When you receive spam mail, you should check the mail header and make sure who really sent it.

On the other hand, you are held responsible for carefully managing your password.

Assisting unauthorized people to access a computer system is also illegal.

Then again, remember you must not use someone else's ID and password.

Damage to Computers

Falsifing / Erasing Data or Programs

Unauthorized Use

Illegal Access

Computer Viruses

Falsification of Web Pages

Spoofing

Postscript

This is a concise version of *Internet no Hikari to Kage*, a guide to Information Ethics.   It has been used in senior high schools and colleges as an introductory textbook for Information Ethics.   It includes some illustrations which will help those who have little knowledge of the Internet.

We hope this booklet will be of some help to you in the instruction to your young students of you.

Information Education Circle

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