



On Monday, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, Rob Fitzgerald, President of The Lorenzi Group, a Data Analytics firm specializing in Digital Forensics and Data Security consulting, presented workshops to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students on Online Safety. This Tri-Town Council-sponsored program covered several important topics to teach the students to keep themselves safe.

Be sure to ask your son or daughter about the program and what they learned. Below is a summary of the topics covered with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at Masco.

**If you have questions or concerns, Rob will be at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Guidance coffee on Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 9am in the Library.**

**Topics covered with students:**

- What does online mean?
- It's almost impossible to hide on the internet
- How to create a safe screen name
- Don't share passwords
- Who is a friend online?
- Posting Information
- Internet and Technology is great, but...

**Some key on line safety strategies that will help you keep your child and family safe:**

- Know what your children are doing on the computer, smart phone, tablet, etc., don't just give them the technology; set the ground rules in advance.
- Sign a Family Acceptable Use Internet Policy (sample available at [www.tritowncouncil.org](http://www.tritowncouncil.org) , Resources Tab)
- Monitor what your kids are doing or saying on the computer as well as who is trying to contact them – software is available to do this:
  - Sonicwall TZ – [www.sonicwall.com](http://www.sonicwall.com)
  - Astaro – [www.astaro.com](http://www.astaro.com)
  - TrueCrypt – [www.truecrypt.com](http://www.truecrypt.com)
  - SpectorSoft – [www.spectorsoft.com](http://www.spectorsoft.com)
  - K9 Web Protection – [www.k9webprotection.com](http://www.k9webprotection.com)
  - Symantec – [www.symantec.com](http://www.symantec.com)
  - AVG – [www.freeavq.com](http://www.freeavq.com)

(continued...)

- It's almost impossible to hide on the internet and anything you text or post stays out there. Retrieving and deleting a posted picture from your account **does not** delete it from the internet.
- **MANY** colleges, private schools and future workplaces check information on the internet of their potential future students or workers so establish appropriate guidelines and standards now.
- Make sure your children use safe, non-offensive screen names and also ones that cannot ID you in the 'real' world for example using their real name or address. Include numbers as well letters (caps and lower case)and symbols within your passwords.
- Advise your kids not to share passwords, **even with friends.**
- Who is a friend online? Have this conversation with your child often. A Friend is someone you as the parent has met or shaken hands with, not a friend's cousin or a friend of a friend who you (or your child) does not know.
- Never put location information, words or pictures that 'Grandma' would not be proud of on any website, such as Instagram, Facebook, AIM, Sype, gaming devices, etc...or that you or your child would not want posted on a highway billboard.
- **If you discover a problem** with your child on the internet, whether it's someone posting bad information about your child (a 'friend') or an unknown individual trying to make contact with your child by asking for pictures or information about him/her – **DO NOT DELETE THE ACCOUNT** and think you've solved the problem. Ask for help on how to handle the situation by contacting a variety of resources including school administrators, local police, Tri-Town Council Project Safety Net Hotline (978) 771-4619 as well as The Lorenzi Group (866) 632-9880.
- Internet and Technology is great, embrace and enjoy all that it has to offer with your child but, most importantly, **TALK TO YOUR KIDS** about the Internet, monitor how they use it (remember it is a privilege) and be aware of any changes in behavior or habits that may indicate problems which require your support.



**Digital Forensics & Data Security Consulting**  
**Active Network Monitoring by The Lorenzi Group**  
**Prepared. Proactive. Protected.**  
**Topsfield, MA (978) 632-9880**  
[www.thelorenzigroup.com](http://www.thelorenzigroup.com)

## Steps You Can Take

- Family Acceptable Use Policy
- Login ID's & PW for each family member
- AV/AntiSpyware software
- Encrypted Files
- Firewall Device
- Network Monitoring Software
- Google “alerts” for family
- Keep talking to your kids

## Resources

- Sonicwall TZ – [www.sonicwall.com](http://www.sonicwall.com)
- Astaro – [www.astaro.com](http://www.astaro.com)
- TrueCrypt – [www.truecrypt.com](http://www.truecrypt.com)
- SpectorSoft – [www.spectorsoft.com](http://www.spectorsoft.com)
- K9 Web Protection – [www.k9webprotection.com](http://www.k9webprotection.com)
- Symantec – [www.symantec.com](http://www.symantec.com)
- AVG – [www.freeavg.com](http://www.freeavg.com)