

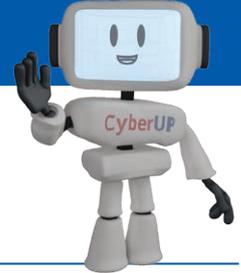


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What is the digital neighbourhood?

“Small actions, big difference – welcome to the digital neighbourhood”

In the digital neighbourhood, everybody has a home in the cloud. Do you know what is happening in your digital home? Do you know who has access to your house?

Introduction

Your digital neighbourhood includes all the sites and people you often connect with on the Internet. Your digital home includes your private accounts and spaces. Any digital communication you use, from SMS to social media, to leaving a comment on a newspaper article, is part of your digital presence. Any device you use to perform this communication is your vehicle to the digital neighbourhood. Just like physical safety, digital safety is a basic need for living a good online life.

How to protect yourself

In our normal, “real” lives we can choose where we live. This means not only choosing the house we want to live in, but also the neighbourhood. The neighbourhood we choose is the place where we want to live and engage with other people.

If you own a smartphone or a computer with Internet access, you are part of a digital neighbourhood. Your



digital neighbourhood follows the same principles as your physical one. You visit sites and services that you feel comfortable with and interact with people who share your interests. Think about the websites that you are subscribed to. Facebook? Twitter? An online forum for sharing and appreciating aquarium pictures? The list might be much longer than you think. All these sites and services form part of your digital neighbourhood.

You have to ask yourself whether you would like to reside in this neighbourhood in your real life. Some questions to guide you:

- What are you subscribed to online?
- Which sites or services do you have an account for?
- Which sites do you visit often?
- Do you feel safe when visiting these sites?
- Would you invite your friends to visit these sites?
- Who are the people you share information with on these sites?
- What personal information are you sharing online?
- Are you making a positive or negative contribution to your neighbourhood?

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