

ANTHONY A. SCARPIANO, JR.
Westchester County District Attorney

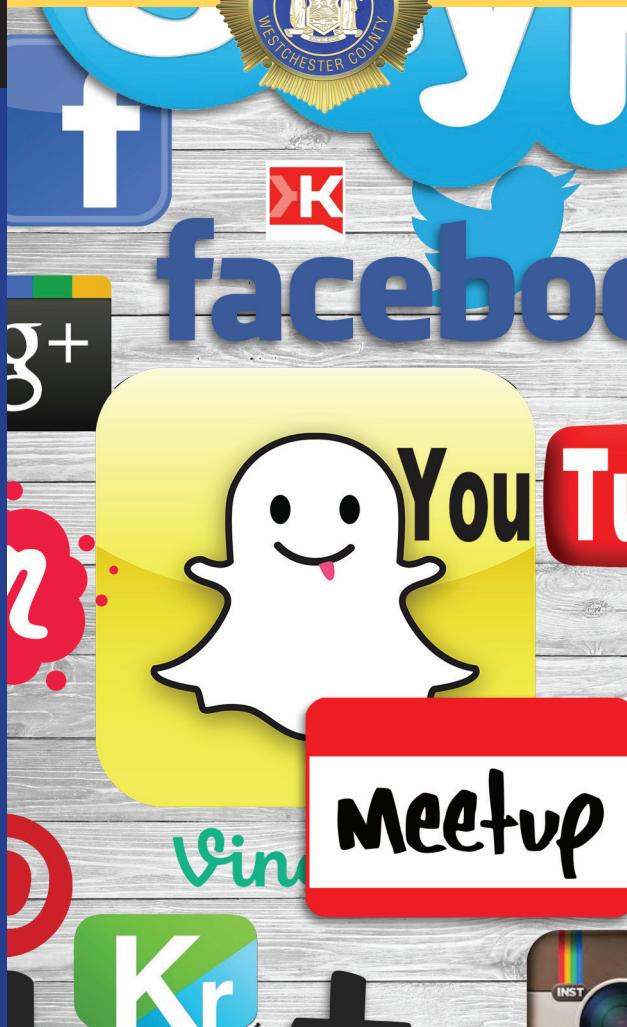
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A message from
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DIGITAL DANGER

Remember...

Not everyone is your friend

Be careful about meeting anyone in person that you have only met online. The potential for danger is too great. Criminals online often hide their true identity and intent. There is no way to tell if the person online is who they say they are or that their intentions are good.

Watch your virtual back

Keep your social networking pages private. Make sure that all of your “followers” and “friends” are people you know and like in real life. Strangers don’t need to follow your every move.

Be careful with profiles

Some Web sites/apps allow the creation of profiles with screen names. A profile is a brief description of the Internet user, and can include information that may or may not be true. Look at your own profile-did you misrepresent something? Maybe your age, sex or location? If you have, just imagine the lies a criminal would be willing to use.

End the conversation

If someone starts communicating with you about sex, drugs, alcohol or violence, it’s a good time to end the communication and report it to a loved one, school administrator, trusted friend or law enforcement.

There are no secrets on the Internet!

Be careful when giving out your name, address, phone number, social security number, credit card number or any other personal information online or in a text. Once something (information, photos, conversations, anything!) is posted online or texted, even for the shortest amount of time, it can be shared, printed, saved or used to find you. Think twice before posting anything you consider private.

When a joke is no joke

A threat of violence, even if it is a prank, can result in criminal charges. If you are aware of threatening or harassing Internet conversations in which violence is discussed against a person or place, call 911 immediately.

Don't get spoofed

Web spoofers can steal your identity. Criminals frequently choose e-mail addresses and domain names deceptively similar to legitimate Web sites and addresses in order to steal private information. Make sure you don't log onto these counterfeit Web sites and give them information.

Keep your computer healthy

It is best not to open an e-mail if you don't know the sender. Approach an e-mail from unknown senders with extreme caution. Some e-mails contain viruses that can damage your computer.

