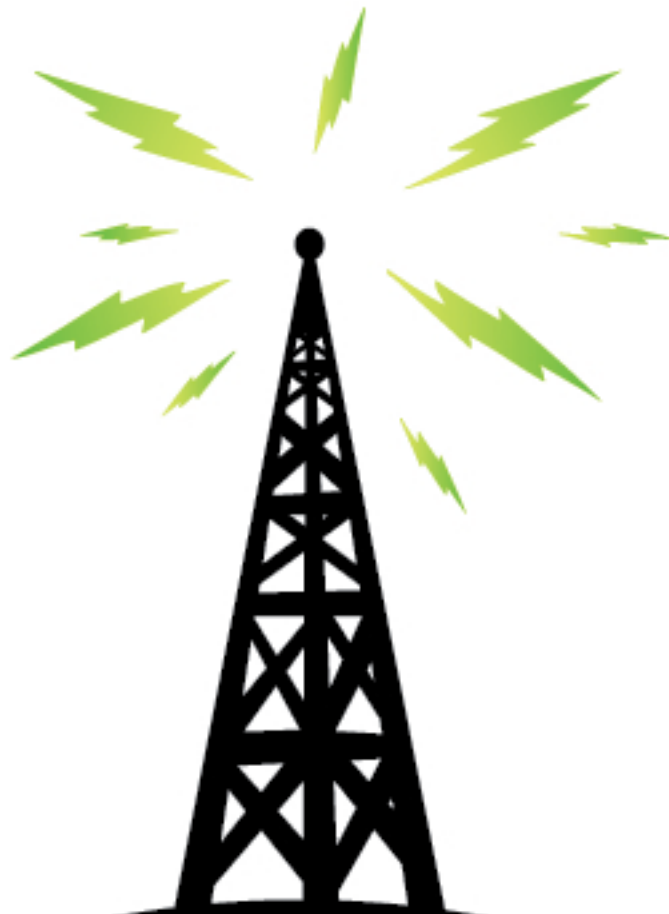


IN THE WILDERNESS WITH WIRELESS



**"children can
access the Internet
through devices like a PSP...
ready to surf the Internet right out of the box"**

Wireless technology is not new. Wireless television remotes replaced their hard wired counterparts in 1955. It has only been recently however that wireless capability has become the most sought after feature for nearly any electronic device. This has had significant implications in the communication industry. Consider this:

Everything is wireless.

Everything from your cell phone to your satellite television allows you to communicate wirelessly with virtually anyone in the world. You can use a handheld GPS device to figure out just where in the

That means that children can take their wireless device into a hot-spot and access the Internet. It might be even easier if your neighbor uses an unprotected (meaning that no password is required to connect) wireless connection – your child could access the unfiltered Internet connection from his own room.

Wireless Concerns.

The abundance of wireless devices and connection points should be concerning to parents and community leaders. Parents must educate themselves about what devices their children



world you are. Unbeknownst to many parents even their children's toys can connect to the Internet. Portable game consoles like the PSP come with a browser – effectively bypassing any parental controls on the home computer. And this:

Wireless is everywhere.

Many people are installing wireless Internet connections in their homes, cities are deploying wireless networks, and some businesses are offering free wireless “hot-spots” that allow anyone with an Internet enabled device to get online. We are no longer tied to one spot – we can get an Internet connection just about anywhere.

are using and how they access the Internet. Communities and states should examine the potential dangers and legal pitfalls of free WiFi.

Know What Your Children are Using and How it Can Be Used

The most popular wireless device that children use is cell phones. Cell phones now routinely come with web browsers, although many are limited in their surfing capabilities. The cost of adding web-browsing to your cell phone plan can also be very expensive. Even so, children can access the Internet – and everything on it, including pornography - from their cell phone.

Many parents are not aware that their children can access the Internet through devices like a PSP. The popular hand-held video game player is ready to surf the Internet right out of the box. Even if you don't have a wireless connection in your home your child can take the PSP into your neighbor's yard, or into the hot-spot downtown and surf the web. The browser is similar to the browser found on your computer, allowing you to see images as well as text. A child could visit any website: nickelodeon.com, myspace.com, victoriasecret.com or even playboy.com.

If you are aware that the PSP can connect to the Internet, there is little you can do to protect your child. You can't install a filter on a PSP. You can't password protect access to the PSP. Any safeguards you may have in place on your home computer are rendered useless – your child isn't using the home computer.

Mp3 players, including iPods, are increasingly available with web browsing capabilities. It is expected that the next generation of the iPod will be

an non-phone version of the iPhone which is fully web-enabled. The only difference between using your home computer and the new iPod for Internet access will be the size of the screen.

Many parents are also buying their children laptop computers to help with school work. Again, parents may not consider the dangers of open wireless connections, whether at home, in the neighborhood, or across town. Children can take their laptops into an open wireless area and access

whatever they want. Parents who are particularly concerned about their children's Internet use should also be aware that a child can purchase a laptop or other web-enabled device for not much money. Parents need to be aware that the toys they are buying for their children are able to access the Internet. These toys permit children to subvert, whether maliciously or not, parental authority and protection.

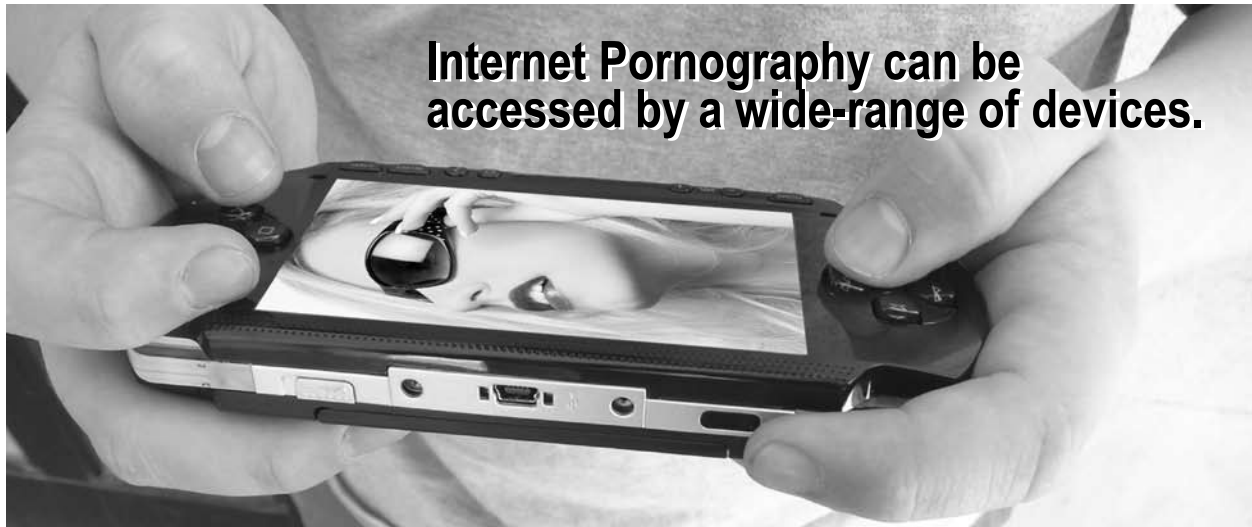
Community Concerns

Cities and communities are racing to offer free wireless networks. Philadelphia for example has

undertaken a major initiative to ensure that every citizen has access to the Internet. Few municipal governments however are taking the time to consider the associated dangers and contradictions. By pushing up hot-spots governments are allowing children free access to pornography. This defeats many other efforts that governments may have taken in order to protect children from

pornography, whether on the Internet or otherwise. Additionally allowing free access to pornography on the Internet is similar to allowing an adult bookstore to set up shop. The Supreme Court has ruled that it isn't only the content that people can be concerned about, but the effects of having sexually-explicit content available in a certain area. Communities should be concerned about allowing anyone to freely access pornography in what would normally be considered a clean, kid-friendly area





of the city; especially if they are doing it on the taxpayers' dime.

Governments are not always providing the wireless connection – in many instances they encourage or at least allow private businesses to employ hot spots. These businesses view the free connection as a service to the community; more importantly as a marketing tool. How is a business that offers free, open access to the Internet any different than a sex shop. Sex shop owners would be heavily prosecuted if they allowed a child to enter their store; to protect themselves they can ID customers and refuse access. Not so with a open wireless connection – anyone is able to enter the area and access sexual content not available in many “adult” establishments.

There is also a case to be made against private citizens employing a wireless connection in their home. You may not be aware of it, but if you use wireless you may be offering free Internet access to your neighbors and are potentially paying for their Internet pornography addiction. As was mentioned before, if your neighbor uses unprotected wireless your child will be able to access the Internet. Do you, or your neighbor, want to be responsible for potential pornography exposure to the neighborhood children? Communities must be aware of the potential hazards of allowing everyone, including children, open access to the Internet.

What Can We Do?

These points aren't meant to scare parents or threaten communities, but rather to educate them. An accurate understanding of the potential pitfalls of wireless connections helps in understanding how

we can effectively use them and protect children at the same time.

Everything is Wireless.

Know what devices your children are using to access the Internet. Before purchasing them the latest “toy” be it a phone, music player, or game console, be aware of its web capabilities and establish clear rules for use.

Wireless is everywhere.

Many people think that these criticisms are meant to dissuade use of wireless networks in homes, businesses and communities. Far from it – wireless Internet often offers a cost-effective and more efficient alternative for getting Internet access in your environment. But individuals, business owners, and governments should offer only password protected wireless. At home a password would prevent your neighbors and others from freeloading on a service you are paying for. For community-centered hot-spots, like those offered in malls, parks, and city-central areas, a password, only given to adults, ensures that children can't access the Internet. This is no different than a sex-shop or even a liquor store ensuring that minors cannot enter their establishments.

The CP80 Foundation is committed to educating parents and communities about the value and dangers of wireless Internet connections. The Foundation is also working with state governments to craft legislation that will encourage appropriate deployment and use of wireless networks. By working with the community CP80 wants to help parents in protecting their children from unwanted access to Internet pornography.