



.Safe

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Name of Deliverable: .Safe survey (audiences, messages and means)

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WP: 1

Part I
(Cover)

Deliverable

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.Safe survey (audiences, messages and means)

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Abstract:

To investigate the audiences, messages and means, it was decided to carry out a survey involving stakeholders in education. The .Safe Survey has been divided into

Form A: Technical and Non-Technical Strategies used in Schools

Form B: Concerns, Experiences and Opinions of Teachers

Multiplier Questionnaire

This deliverable comprises of a preliminary report documenting the results of four questionnaires, hosted online and completed by principals, teachers and ICT Co-ordinators in European primary and post primary schools and one multiplier questionnaire completed by the Dot.Safe Project Partners. The analysis is based on data collected by June 11th, 2001.

Keyword List: Internet Safety, Primary School, Post Primary School, Technical Solutions, Educational Strategies, Concerns, Experiences, Teachers, ICT Co-ordinators, School Management, Acceptable Internet Usage Policy, Multiplier Organisations, Unions, Charities, Local Education Authorities, Education Centres.

*Type: PU-public, LI-limited, RP-restricted

**Nature: PR-Prototype, RE-Report, SP-Specification, TO-Tool, OT-Other



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All work has been carried out with the financial support of the European Union



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Part II

(Executive Summary)

Dot.Safe Survey

The survey work, conducted to obtain a picture of existing solutions, audiences, messages and means in the area of Internet safety for schools, was an important aspect of the Dot.Safe Project. The Dot.Safe Survey was designed to measure current and best practice in European schools with regard to Safe Use of the Internet. Two questionnaires were designed relating to the technical solutions and educational strategies in place in schools. Two questionnaires were designed to gather teachers' experiences and concerns with regard to using the Internet with their students in school. Questionnaires were compiled in association with all project partners and are available on the Internet either to be completed online or printed off and completed on hard copy. Each English questionnaire in the school survey was translated into French, German, Italian, Spanish, Catalan, Norwegian and Finnish to have eight European languages represented. All the language versions of the questionnaires are linked to the original database, which involved considerable programming.

Multiplier Questionnaire

The Multiplier Questionnaire gathers a list of contact details for all organisations and educational institutions that may be interested in the Dot.Safe project and may be useful for disseminating information to teachers, raising awareness of Internet Safety issues and strategies around Europe. There are currently 65 records in the Multiplier Database. The types of organisations include the following:

Departments of Education
 Primary and Post Primary Teacher Unions,
 Local Education Authorities/Education Centres
 Pre-Service and In-service Colleges/Teacher Training Colleges,
 Internet Advisory Boards
 Hotlines,
 Charities, etc.

For this deliverable there were five distinct questionnaires:

- Technical and Non-Technical Strategies in Primary Schools
- Technical and Non-Technical Strategies in Post Primary Schools
- Concerns and Experiences of Teachers in Primary Schools
- Concerns and Experiences of Teachers in Post Primary Schools
- A Multiplier Questionnaire for Project Partners Giving Country Information



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Part III

(Full description of deliverable content)

Survey Analysis

The analysis of the questionnaires was carried out during the week June 11 - June 15, 2001. Only the data available at close of business on **June 11 was included**. This data was collected by the NCTE in via Microsoft Access database and was later transferred to an SPSS database (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) for the purposes of analysis. A full set of survey results has been produced in a report, which has been attached, however some of the more relevant results and outcomes have been outlined below.

The report is designed to extract measurements of general awareness, understanding and perceptions of Internet safety issues. Some of the areas examined are: the awareness of teachers of explicit material available to students, the difference in strategies amongst European schools in relation to Internet safety, concerns amongst the partners in education on the issue, the correlation between the age of the student and Internet access, areas of Internet activity which cause most concern, which group is the highest risk, incidents where students have encountered explicit material and the source of peoples experiences.

Limitations

There are a number of limitations applying to the analysis. First, and most importantly, the time period in which it was necessary to conduct the analysis imposed constraints on the detail in which each of the questionnaire surveys could be analysed. Second, ideally the surveys would have had a greater response rate in order to provide more statistically representative results from the data. This is particularly relevant with regard to differences that may have been evident among the participating countries. Finally, because of the short time period in which the analysis and report were conducted, the report only describes the data that were available at 5pm on the 11 June 2001. The additional data now available has not been taken into consideration in this report and will not be reflected in the analysis. A further analysis will be conducted at a later date.

Are teachers across Europe aware of the potential exposure to explicit material by their students on the Internet?

Teachers and administrators knowledge of filtering software and some of the main solutions to regulate Internet access appear to be quite poor. Just over a quarter of those surveyed in post-primary schools knew about basic principals in filtering packages, such as preventing certain words in searches and preventing access to certain sites. This was lower in primary schools.

Password use was the only major safety strategy deployed by schools and it is unclear precisely how this would strengthen safety without linkage of passwords to sites visited and activities. Traditional preventative measures seem to be the most popular methods of overseeing use such as the presence of a teacher in the classroom while students are accessing the Internet. In the 8-12 year old category in primary schools nearly three quarters of schools provided access at a teacher's discretion while two thirds made the presence of an adult a condition for Internet access. It is likely that the much lower ratings for 3-7 year olds (27% and 24% respectively) is due to the low level of Internet use in this age group, however, this should be investigated further.



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WP: 1

Responsibilities amongst students vary with one of the main restrictions for 8-12 year olds being the need for permission to print or download material, however this falls sharply for older students with only one third of respondents citing this restriction for the over seventeen's. The trends are broadly similar for post-primary teachers.

Parents do not feature to any great extent in the development of safety strategies for example in obtaining permission or in setting guidelines yet teachers see a role for them in educating students and assisting in the promotion of safe Internet usage. This area may offer potential for growth in increasing efforts towards developing Internet safety awareness

Are there differences in strategy amongst European schools, in relation to Internet safety to date?

Based on the low response rate to each of the survey questionnaires, it was not possible to definitively present findings on a per country basis. As some countries may only have responded with a small percentage of schools, it is not possible at this stage of the analysis to present representative results from each country. Having said this, preliminary results would seem to indicate that countries such as Sweden and Norway were in some cases more relaxed in terms of having technical and non-technical strategies in place to promote Internet safety. Although overall the majority of schools from most countries rely more on non-technical strategies, countries such as England and Ireland did show the use of technical measures within their schools. These patterns will be properly investigated when more complete data is reviewed.

Which areas of Internet activity are recognised as causing the most concern in relation to Internet safety?

Surprisingly the area which leads to the highest level of concern amongst primary teachers is the possibility of receipt of computer viruses with 86 *per cent* being concerned or very concerned about this. While the gap is only one or two *per cent* this actually rated higher than concern about issues such as access to adult or even child pornography.

Generally in or around 84 *per cent* of primary teachers are concerned about issues related to pornography and sexually explicit material. One might be concerned about 50 *per cent* of respondents saying they are not concerned about unauthorised access including hacking, although many may feel ability would restrict primary students in this area.

From the research, which age group is perceived as being the “highest risk” group to potential exposure to explicit material on the Web?

As expected responses to this question depended on whether the teacher was teaching in primary or post-primary school. However the overall consensus would suggest that teachers are most concerned for students in the general 11 – 16 year age category. Some of the reasons as to these concerns are quoted below:

To date, have there been many incidents with students encountering explicit material on the Web?

Approximately 50 *per cent* of both primary and post primary teachers surveyed reported encountering explicit material when on their own or while being in the presence of students, however the responses of teachers to encountering such material varies considerably. Most involve reporting it to the ICT co-ordinator - 17 *per cent* of primary teachers and 24 *per cent* of post-primary teachers.



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WP: 1

Are the main concerns expressed as a result of personal opinion or actual experience?

The concern expressed as regards young people and Internet safety was based on the fact that approximately 50 *per cent* of teachers had actual experience of encountering explicit material while on their own or with a pupil. Sixty *per cent* of respondents had heard about experiences from others. 50 *per cent* had heard of it in media reports, while 40 *per cent* had formed opinions themselves.

A copy of the Preliminary Report is attached.



.Safe

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WP: 1

Part IV

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.Safe

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WP: 1

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Illegal and Offensive Content on the Internet

Government of Canada

Superhighway Safety – Safe Use of the Internet

NGFL - National Grid For Learning

DfEE, Government of UK