Toward a Safer Internet Environment for Children

Submitted by: Viet Nam

**APEC-OECD Joint Symposium on Initiatives
Among Member Economies Promoting Safer
Internet Environment for Children
Singapore
15 April 2009**

TOWARD A SAFER INTERNET ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN

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I. Overview

Statistics on Internet Development upto 2/2008		
Broad band Subscribers	1,411,637	
Broad band Sub, per capita	1,67	%
Users	18,997,636	
Users per capita	22,57	%

Statistics on Internet Development upto 2/2009		
Broad band Subscribers	2,171,206	
Broad band Sub, per capita	2,54	%
Users	20,993,374	
Users per capita	24,58	%

I. Overview

Many internet services were provided for children:

- E-Training: English, Matches and Literature,
- Sharing information: Blog, Chat and share file,
- Information resource: Wikipedia, forum, and website,
- Entertainment: online music, e-news, and online game.

I. Overview

- Internet brings many important interests to children:
  - Extraordinary knowledge resource
  - Easy and comfortable communication channel
  - Interesting entertainment world
- Some internet services expose serious risks such as:
  - Online game
  - Forum and chat
  - Black web site

II. Challenges from Online Game

- Online game is increasingly popular among Vietnam's youth
- Vietnam has more than 1 million gamers and almost of them are less than 20 years old,
- More than 88% parents think that online game is not good for their children
- Potential dangers of online game:
  - Lost of studying time,
  - Decline of children's healthy and constitution,
  - Increase of criminal rate (special with children from 15-18 year old):
    - Stolen,
    - Rob,
    - Murder.

III. Challenges from Website, Forum and Chat room

- Website, Forum and Chat room are comfortable communication channels for all children,
- Easy to build, so many dangerous website, forum and chat room are propagating unsuitable information for children.
- These channels allows criminals to hide effectively their traces.
- But It's very difficulty to censor and control the harmful information.

III. Challenges from Website, Forum and Chat room

- Potential dangers:
  - Children may access to pornographic website, private chat room, or website promoting for violence, drug, hatched or other harmful behaviors.
  - Children may encounter someone who targets him or her for victimization.
  - Children may commit a crime, such as:
    - transmitting a threat of violence,
    - using information learned from the Web to build illegal incendiary devices to purchase illegal weapons or substances, to utilize illegal tools available on hacker sites, and to use propaganda found online to engage in hate crimes
    - using e-mail to send threatening or harassing messages, disseminate child pornography, engage in drug dealing or gambling, or make purchases on items (such as firearms) not permitted by minors.

III. Challenges from Website, Forum and Chat room

- Some serious consequences of black web, forum and chat room in Vietnam.
  - 9/2008 a boy followed the instruction of a porno-graphy website and raped a small girl 4 years old.
  - Some hackers guide teenagers to hack the importance website and steal money from bank account.

IV. Solutions

- Objectives:
  - Raise awareness level of children and their parents,
  - Improve the ability of technical supports to prevent and response dangerous problems,
  - Complete the regulatory and guidelines toward a internet environment safety.
- Issue legal documents
  - Joint Circular on management of online games issued June 1 2008 (Code: 60/2006/TTLT-BVHTT-BBCVT-BCA)
    - Limit the access time of each account
    - Control strictly content of online games.
  - Decree No 97/2008/ND-CP on the management, provision and use of internet services and electronic information on the internet (August 28 2008)
    - Organizations and enterprises establishing websites for online social services must also register with the ministry.

IV. Solutions

- Technical measures:
  - Built up the security centre to gather and manage information about children's security event from various ways (fax, telephone, email, website)
  - Build up security software to filter and drop connection to black site (ex: pornographic, private chat room or promote for violence, drug, hatched or other harmful behaviors)
  - Build up software to control the access time to online game,
  - Build up the black list of dangerous website for children.

IV. Solutions

- Improve cooperation between organization:
  - Government organizations:
    - Ministry of Public Security,
    - Ministry of Justice,
    - Ministry of Information and Communications,
    - Ministry of Education.
    - Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Vietnam
  - Associations (Vietnam Information Security Association),
  - Service Providers,
  - Families,
  - Schools,
  - International organizations.
- Non - Technical measures:
  - Teach children how-to use safety internet services,
  - Promote the good online games, websites, forums and chat room for children,
  - Provide guidelines to improving the awareness for parents.

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!