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Following the highly-acclaimed two-day roundtable in London, FOSI will host a one-day European Conference designed to bring together key industry figures, experts, government representatives and the wider stakeholder community, to discuss how to ensure a continued and successful international push for global digital citizenship and safe and responsible online use.

Generously sponsored by AT&T, this conference promises to be a highlight of the 2009 Internet safety calendar, bringing together the key voices in the international Internet stakeholder community. We will look at the challenges that universal broadband coverage creates for the Internet industry and how corporate responsibility is evolving to meet them. Conference sessions will also explore industry, government and charitable responses to the issues that less developed nations face as they try to provide Internet access to the people, and the challenges that they come across as the Internet becomes more widely available.

Sessions will focus on digital citizenship, media literacy, privacy, technology solutions and their impact on safety online, location-based services and wireless safety efforts, and safe online use in developing countries.

To learn more about how you can take part please contact Samantha Woolfe at swoolfe@fosi.org

FOSI's Third Annual Conference Attracts Record Sponsorship

On November 4-5, 2009, FOSI will host its third annual conference, & exhibition entitled "Building a Culture of Responsibility: From Online Safety to Digital Citizenship," which will be held in the beautiful Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington, D.C. Thus far, seventeen (17) companies and associations have sponsored the day and a half long event, which we expect to attract over 300 attendees. A special thanks to NCTA for stepping up early as our "Leader of Corporate Responsibility." Stay tuned for more details on the agenda and speakers.



2009 Sponsors:

Leader of Corporate Responsibility: NCTA

Platinum: Comcast, Google, AT&T, GSMA & CTIA/The Wireless Foundation, Verizon, Time Warner Cable

Gold: Sprint & Microsoft

Silver: Nominum, AOL, BlueCoat, Symantec, Ning, Optenet & Rhed Pixel.

InFocus — Net-Aman: A Case Study in Online Child safety

The Egyptian youth Internet Safety focus group, Net-Aman, is an important part of the wider Cyber Peace Initiative developed by the Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement. Supported by a range of organizations, including the Egyptian Ministry of Communications and Technology, Net-Aman (translated literally means Net Safety), was created to research the Internet safety needs of Egyptian youth and promote e-safety through the development of guidelines of Internet Safety, youth education and awareness-raising within schools and the wider community. 11 young people, aged 18 to 28 years of age, make up the focus group.

On Safer Internet Day 2009, Net-Aman launched its e-Safety Family Kit. It features Arab characters developed by InSafe. It is aimed at families with children aged between 6 and 12 years and uses color-coded chapters highlighting four e-safety themes: Security, Communication, Cyber bullying and Entertainment. It has been created in a way that is meaningful to Arab culture and encourages discussion within the family and wider community.

With Egypt hosting the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) November 18-15, 2009, it will come as no surprise that Net-Aman will be part of this important event. For information of the great work Net-Aman does go to <http://smwipm.cyberpeaceinitiative.org>



Photograph, L-R: Alton Grizzle, UNESCO; Mohammed Fathy, Cyber Peace Initiative; David Miles, FOSI.

FOSI Supports PointSmart.ClickSafe. Task Force Recommendations

On July 8th, NCTA and PointSmart.ClickSafe Task Force members released the PointSmart.ClickSafe report: Task Force Recommendations for Best Practices for Online Safety and Literacy at an event in the U.S. Capitol. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL) and Rep. John Shimkus (D-IL) praised the report at the launch. FOSI CEO, Stephen Balkam, also spoke at the event and commended the Task Force for its emphases on research, education, and evaluation of existing online safety methods. "Kids today are increasingly tech savvy. It is vital that we help them develop digital media literacy skills and guide them how to use technology in a safe and responsible way," Balkam said. FOSI Board members Mike McKeehan of Verizon and Pablo Chavez of Google also served on the Task Force and spoke at the event. To read the Task- Force Recommendations for Best Practices for Child Online Safety visit www.pointsmartreport.org



Wednesday with Winston at Womble

FOSI has continued to drive the family online safety debate and dialogue in Washington, DC with its highly-acclaimed Online on Wednesday Panel Series. On June 24, 2009 FOSI and law firm Womble Carlyle hosted the second of the lunchtime panel series, Wednesdays with Winston. The focus of this Wednesdays with Winston was on the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) Notice of Inquiry ("NOI") on the Child Safe Viewing Act. Stephen Balkam, CEO of FOSI, moderated a discussion with Robert Cannon, Senior Counsel in the Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis at the FCC; David E. Young, Vice President of Federal Regulatory Affairs at Verizon; Matt Gerst, Counsel for External and State Affairs at CTIA- the Wireless Foundation; and Eric Breisach, an attorney with Womble Carlyle.

Robert Cannon explained that the Child Safe Viewing Act was passed in 2008 and tasked the FCC with examining advanced blocking technologies and reporting the findings to Congress by August 2009. Young also discussed Verizon's initiatives to educate parents.

Matt Gerst of CTIA highlighted the wireless industry's efforts to offer parental controls. He discussed how the wireless industry began to offer these services for parents without a mandate from Congress and how successful the voluntary efforts of the wireless industry have been in this area. Gerst also discussed the education initiatives CTIA provides and talked about the Wireless Child Safety Task Force. Eric Breisach hypothesized about where the FCC may go with online safety under a new chairman. He also discussed the First Amendment concerns that will arise if Congress tries to mandate a blocking technology and limit access to content.

The panelists agreed that providing tools and education were the best ways to keep children from accessing harmful content online. The next Wednesdays with Winston luncheon panel will be on August 26th and will focus on the FTC's role in online safety. For more information write to events@fosi.org

2009 FOSI Calendar

26 August	Wednesdays with Winston, Washington, DC
16 September	Global Digital Citizenship: Safe and Responsible Online Use, Paris
4 - 5 November	FOSI's 3rd Annual Conference & Exhibition, Washington DC
15 - 18 November	Internet Governance Forum, Cairo

For more information on any of these events, write to events@fosi.org

GSMA hosts successful London FOSI Roundtable 17-18 June, 2009

Generously hosted by the GSM Association, the Family Online Safety Institute held two days of International roundtable discussions, bringing together some of the leading academics, industry thinkers and online safety advocates on mobile phone trends and universal broadband provision. With attendees from 58 organizations, 7 countries and 3 continents, the presentations and discussions that followed provided a unique insight into the issues and challenges that an ever more pervasive Internet brings.

The first day took an in depth look at mobile device safety and began with cutting-edge research from Aaron Rattue, GfK, bringing an enlightened market research approach to understanding mobile phone trends. GfK's research endorsed some ideas already well-understood, but importantly also shed new light on some areas including, high levels of penetration and usage, heavy use at an early age, that the mobile internet is not perceived to be as safe as the traditional one, large amounts of downloading of content, and the increase in flat rate subscriptions.

The GfK presentation led to a discussion around specific mobile education aimed at teens, and how to work with them to use their mobile devices in the best ways possible, from online reputation and what they post/share online, to mobile learning. Teens are on the edge of becoming adults and making life-changing decisions, from money management to careers, at a time when it is more important than ever to think about online reputations and perceptions, for potential employers and partners for example. Key for this age group is understanding and managing the awesome technology to which they have 24/7 access. The participants discussed the best ways of teaching that access to your digital self needed to be limited, bringing the discussion around to citizenship and social norms, and that online behavior should in fact be no different to offline behavior, that boundary setting is key.

Professor Sonia Livingstone talked about EU Kids Online's recently published Final Report that covers online use and risk in detail, looking at e-inclusion policies, ensuring that empowerment and protection are balanced, positive technological and social online learning experiences, and the encouragement of media literacy and ICT provision in schools. Professor Rich Ling, working with the Telenor Institute, shared some research specifically on mobile use and the correlation between sexual experience, and mobile phone use in Norway. Maria Jose Cantarino de Frias, Telefonica and Trish Church, France Telecom Group, also presented recent research that their companies have completed, from the Latin America and the UK, respectively. FOSI will happily share more information on these presentations with you.

This first day's roundtable discussions also included industry representatives sharing thoughts that industry should work together to go into schools, recognizing that the issue of mobile and online safety was complicated, but not overly so. The discussions that teachers were key to ensuring mobile phone safety, and needed to understand the technology themselves, especially when it came to behavioral issues such as sexting or happy slapping. Parents and teachers are both essential components in industry's efforts to make mobile safety a priority, in addition to education that helps kids understand that they can make wise choices.

The second day's discussions focused on 'Broadband for Everyone: The Role of Family Online Safety in an Always-Connected Society,' and coincided with the publication of the UK Government's Digital Britain Report (see page 4). Broadband Stakeholder Group CEO Antony Walker took the participants through the practical implications of the Report looking in detail at its recommendations, Derek Wyatt MP also shared, 'A View from Parliament.' To learn more, or for presentations or more information please go to 'Previous Events,' at www.fosi.org or write to events@fosi.org



From left to right: Annie Mullins, Vodafone; Jason De Bono, DCSF; Stephen Balkam, FOSI.

Digital Britain Report Launched

In mid-June the Digital Britain report, authored by Lord Carter, the UK's Minister for Communications, Technology and Broadcasting, was released. The wide-ranging document is intended to act as a guide for how Britain can sustain its position as a leading digital economy and society. In Chapter Seven Lord Carter recognises that online safety is a global issue and should be tackled on three levels – global, national and individual. He reiterates the government's position on effective self-regulation playing a part in creating a safer online environment, and cites the Home Secretary's Task Force and Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) as successful examples. The latter, which has played a key role in the UK, is likely to see its remit expanded across Europe as the government works with EU bodies to create a pan-European body around online safety.

Lord Carter tasks the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS), which was a recommendation of the Byron Review (published in March 2008), with developing a strategy to include "better regulation in the form, wherever possible, of voluntary codes of practice that industry can sign up to; and better information and education where the role of government, law enforcement, schools and children's services will be key." It is still unclear how this will work in practice, but four working groups will look at the key areas of industry standards, video games, public awareness and better education. On a practical level, the report recognises the need for parents to have better access to advice in areas such as online safety and content filters, but also shows an understanding of the challenge of children being more computer literate than parents and teachers.

In many ways, the report on raises as many questions as it answers, and has been criticised by some, but it builds on the work done to date and is another step in the right direction. A full digital copy of the report is available from the Department of Culture Media and Sport's website <http://www.culture.gov.uk>

FOSI's June Hill Panel - Is it Possible to Legislate Safety?

FOSI's June Hill Panel, titled "Is it Possible to Legislate Safety?" featured Mercedes Salem from the office of Representative Linda Sanchez; Jason Tuber from the office of Senator Robert Menendez; and Adam Thierer of the Progress and Freedom Foundation. The discussion, moderated by FOSI CEO Stephen Balkam, focused on the recent introduction of two pieces of legislation on Capitol Hill: the Megan Meier Cyberbullying Prevention Act and the SAFE Internet Act. Each of the panelists shared their perspectives on these bills.

Salem provided support for the Megan Meier Cyberbullying Prevention Act and said that educating youth about online safety is crucial. Salem said that Rep. Linda Sanchez is dedicated to a holistic approach to online safety, but also finds it necessary to give prosecutors the ability to punish online bullying. Although Salem emphasized that education is absolutely essential, she also said that there are people who should be punished because cyberbullying is a serious problem.

Tuber emphasized the importance of education in dealing with online safety and concluded that it is not possible to legislate safety, but that Congress can facilitate safety. Tuber explained that the way we can do this is by giving schools and teachers the resources that they need to teach kids about the importance of online safety.

Thierer shared his view on the two bills and said that "people have always engaged in bullying, but they are doing it even more now and they are doing it online." He acknowledged that cyberbullying is a serious problem and applauded both Rep. Sanchez and Sen. Menendez for focusing the attention of Congress on these issues, but cautioned against criminalizing kid on kid bullying. "The Menendez approach is preferable because you can't go wrong with education," Thierer said as he discussed the need to focus on prevention and education rather than the criminalization of adolescent behavior. Thierer also addressed the First Amendment concerns in the Megan Meier Act which led to a debate among the panelists.

ABOUT THE FAMILY ONLINE SAFETY INSTITUTE



Family
Online Safety
Institute

The Family Online Safety Institute works to make the online world safer for kids and their families by identifying and promoting best practice, tools and methods in the field of online safety, that also respect free expression. We do this through the development of public policy, technology, education and special events. FOSI is a trusted convener, bringing together leaders in government, industry and the non-profit sectors to collaborate and innovate new solutions in child safety in a Web 2.0 world.

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