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FOSI 2009 Annual Conference and Exhibition

Building a Culture of Responsibility: From Online Safety to Digital Citizenship

November 4-5, 2009

Join Us!

FOSI's third annual conference & exhibition is just two weeks away. We have over 280 people registered to attend our two-day event, which includes over 80 speakers and 30 exhibitors. Do not miss this unique opportunity to discuss digital citizenship with internationally recognized experts. Featured speakers include:

- Professor Tanya Byron
- Kyle McSlarrow, NCTA
- Anna Gomez, NTIA
- Alec Ross, U.S. State Department
- Derek Wyatt, MP
- Cliff Boro, Kid Zui
- Carrie James, Harvard Graduate School
- Dorothy Attwood, AT&T
- danah boyd
- RIAG Patrick Lynch
- WAAG Robert McKenna
- Anne Collier, Connect Safely
- Ann Harkins, NCPC
- Maria Jose Cantarino de Frias, Telefonica
- Howie Hodges, One Economy

And, we will have a live discussion with 12 teens about life online!

To REGISTER TODAY go to www.fosi.org | Complimentary Admission for Government & Press
Contact events@fosi.org if you have any questions!

A New Chairman for FOSI, Natasha Jackson, GSMA, 2009-2010

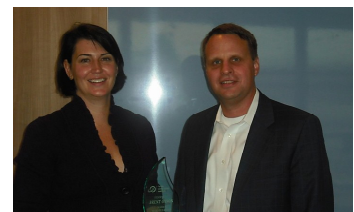


It is at this time of year that we proudly introduce FOSI's new Chairman. This year we are delighted to announce Natasha Jackson, Head of Content Policy at GSMA, a long-time supporter of FOSI, as our incoming Chairman. We welcome her to the FOSI team and look forward to working together in the coming year. As FOSI welcomed Natasha we had to say goodbye to our brilliant outgoing Chairman, Brent Olson, with AT&T.

Following Mike McKeehan of Verizon's excellent work as Chairman in 2007-2008, FOSI's growth was able to double under Brent's stewardship and FOSI certainly recognizes his and AT&T's commitment to protecting kids online. Natasha has already expressed a wish to continue Brent's great efforts and those of all our Board Members, to expand our European operations, as well as those further afield.



FOSI Board Members in Paris. They came from the US, France, Spain, the UK and Russia.



Kim Sanchez, FOSI's Vice Chair (Chairman 2010-2011) presents Brent Olson, the outgoing Chairman, with his award for services to FOSI at the September Board Meeting at Le Campus, Microsoft's Paris Office.

InFocus – CTIC Foundation: A case study in online child safety

Recent studies have revealed that parents and children pick up on Information Communication Technologies (ICT) in different ways. Children in general pick up on ICT in a more natural way. They do not only look for a service, but are “present” in the Internet and they use it to study, chat or listen to music. The Internet is a basic tool for social relations and identity. 75% of children maintain that they like the Internet “a lot or much more than other things” according to data in the study last month by the Spanish National Institute for Technologies of Communication (INTECO) about safe habits in the use of ICT by children and adolescents and e-confidence by their parents.



The differing mentality of picking up on technologies means there is a different perception of the risks involved for parents and children. According to the same study, the main risks for children are addiction and improper use; the damage to property rights through illegal copying; access to inappropriate contents; stalking by other people and /or cyberbullying; grooming or sexual harassment; economic risks and /or fraud as well as technical risks and/or malware.

With regards to the use of social networking sites, the study reveals that 75% of the parents are worried that their children may be the victims of grooming or sexual harassment by adults. Only 21% of the parents understand the active risks of cyberbullying, in contrast to 34% of children. This harassment among children had happened to 5.9% of the children interviewed. Similar studies reveal that 10.8% of children have had their Instant Messenger or mail password stolen and that 50% of young people between 15 and 25 had shared personal information with strangers.

This analysis, together with the thoughts of and discussion with education experts, stakeholders, and society in general, has been the starting point from which the Center for the Development of Information and Communication Technologies in Asturias (CTIC) Foundation decided to organize the First International Congress on Children in ICT under the theme “Educating for a safer Internet”, which will take place in Gijón, Spain, October 27 & 28. Giving children a safer network will be one of the objectives of this first Congress of Children in ICT. The experts from the UK, Canada, Holland, Dominican Republic, the US and others from International Organizations such as UNICEF, EU Kids Online, and Spanish groups Red.es, PantallasAmigas, National Data Protection Agency, and the National Police Force will work together to create a space for debate and cooperation around the detection and development of innovative solutions which will lead to coordinated work.

This initiative from CTIC responds to the social demand arising from the new risks detected for children from the massive and natural use of rapidly evolving technological tools. It is financed by the Government of the Principality of Asturias which supports the implementation of safe technological tools within the framework of the project, ‘Internet and the Family’ (www.internetyfamilia.es), whose objective is to promote the safe use of technology with regards to children and adolescents as well as using the expertise of educators, the family and the media. For more information: <http://menoresenlastic.fundacionctic.org>

FOSI To Release Reports At Annual Conference On Cyberbullying, Pro-Harm Sites & Sexting

FOSI’s Third Annual Conference will see the publication of the FOSI Reports on emerging issues in child safety in the technological age. The information resource will cover the topics of sexting, cyber-bullying and pro-self harm websites.

All three topics have risen to prominence in 2009. Most recently the UK’s Royal College of Psychiatrists has called on the British Government to take action on sites that promote eating disorders stating that they were dangerous. Whilst sexting and cyber-bullying have continued to cause concern on both sides of the Atlantic with concerning statistics being published and the drafting of legislation attempting to combat the problem.

For more information on FOSI’s Third Annual Conference or the FOSI Reports please contact swoolfe@fosi.org

FOSI Annual Conference, November 4-5, 2009

Nov 4 FOSI’s 3rd Annual Conference & Exhibition, Washington DC
 12pm Registration, Lunch & Exhibition
 6:30pm Evening Reception & Awards Ceremony

Nov 5 8am Registration, Breakfast & Exhibition
 6pm Adjourn

For more information go to www.fosi.org or write to events@fosi.org

Does The UN Convention On The Rights Of The Child Fully Address The Needs And Expectations Of Children In The Digital Age?

FOSI supporter Derek Wyatt MP is putting together a campaign in the United Kingdom to petition the UN to clarify their position on child safety on the Internet. Mr Wyatt is working with a number of children's charities to put together a petition to be launched in November. The petition will be delivered to the UN to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the publication of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which almost 200 countries have signed up.



The group is keen that children and young people around the world should have the freedom to make the most of the opportunities to learn and develop that the online world affords, and to be safe while doing so. The petition provides the UN with an opportunity to engage with governments and NGOs to see whether these freedoms are provided under the Convention.

If they are provided for, it is hoped that the 193 countries who are signatories to the Convention will be encouraged to make sure that their policies regarding access and monitoring of the Internet reflect this. If they are not, it is hoped that this realization will provide an impetus for the UN to address the matter properly. Please contact forstermike@parliament.uk for more information.

Global Digital Citizenship: Encouraging Safe and Responsible Online Use

FOSI worked together with fellow hosts AT&T throughout the summer to pull-off another successful day-long international conference, this time in Paris. It was entitled "Global Digital Citizenship: Encouraging Safe and Responsible Online Use".



We focused on the growing use of the Internet around the world and the importance of teaching responsible use of the Internet as broadband reaches new populations. The morning sessions looked at what the digital world looks like right now and how developing countries are beginning to adapt as emerging technologies become increasingly available in them. We had panel representatives sharing fascinating and challenging information from Mexico, Brazil and Egypt. These panelists discussed some of the educational initiatives and public private partnerships in their countries in the field of online safety, but were clear that for the majority of the families in their countries, there were other priorities. Dieter Carstensen from Save the Children Denmark presented on what the online world really means for emerging digital societies. He discussed applying the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to the Internet, which is happening with its 20th anniversary this year (see above for details). Crucially, he suggested that we focused on how we can connect the next one billion users safely.

Sessions also focused on the concept of digital citizenship and protecting privacy and free expression while sharing a responsibility to keep kids safe online. Some panels covered the role of government in child safety issues around the globe, others looked at targeted advertising, social networking websites, and helping consumers choose the right technology solution for safety. This conference showed us too that the impact of the increasing use of mobile telephony around the world, bringing internet access to people who've never had it before, highlights the need for more resource and funding for educational efforts to help consumers make wise choices online and be good digital citizens.

The event drew nearly 100 attendees from 14 countries but if you weren't able to join us on the day but still want to view the sessions, most of them are available on FOSI's youtube channel, www.youtube.com/fosi and all the conference session summaries can be found at www.fosi.org

For more information about your involvement in FOSI's international events, write to events@fosi.org



Wednesday with Winston at Womble

FOSI and the law firm Womble Carlyle hosted a Wednesdays with Winston luncheon panel on August 26, 2009 and attracted an expert panel and knowledgeable audience for what proved to be a lively debate. Panelists included Molly Crawford of the FTC, Jules Polonetsky from the Future of Privacy Forum, Microsoft's Frank Torres and Jennifer Kashatus of Womble Carlyle. Stephen Balkam, CEO of FOSI, moderated the discussion. The debate focused on the role of the Federal Trade Commission in online safety and covered topics such as Online Behavioural Advertising and the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA).

Molly Crawford outlined the work that was being done by the FTC regarding Online Behavioural Advertising and COPPA and called upon the industry to maintain the dialogue with the FTC on these issues. She discussed the importance of transparency and greater privacy for consumers and said the FTC needs to hear more from industry on the secondary uses of data collected online. Crawford said that there is a strong possibility of legislation in the area of online advertising if companies don't step up their efforts to engage in a dialogue with the FTC and make consumers aware of practices. Crawford also noted that the FTC has moved up its review of COPPA to 2010 and is currently examining virtual worlds.

Jules Polonetsky said that one of the goals of the Future of Privacy Forum was to advance responsible practices. He reminded the audience that the industry had dealt with the problem of spam and spyware and that progress in the domain of online behavioural advertising was possible without government intervention, it just needed time. Polonetsky said that businesses were working to make sure consumers were aware of what was being used. He also noted that the public liked it when online behavioural advertising worked for their benefit and enhanced their online experience. Polonetsky also said that legislators were less cautious about acting in this area and there was a need for some technical innovation.

Frank Torres of Microsoft paid tribute to the work that the FCC has been doing with behavioural targeting and online advertising. He said these were important aspects of how the industry worked today and online ads could help newspapers, journalists, and small businesses. Torres noted that Rep. Boucher had been talking about a privacy bill that included behavioural advertising and said that it was important that businesses are allowed to work and grow but that consumers were also informed. Torres said that Microsoft believed it was important to educate parents and kids to be savvy online. He also explained that compliance with COPPA was important and encouraged everyone to be active in the COPPA review.

Jennifer Kashatus of Womble Carlyle talked about the increase in state governments taking action in this area. She said that states were moving much faster than the federal government and questioned whether industry could move fast enough to keep up with requirements on a state-by-state basis. Kashatus discussed recent legislation in Maine to expand the age of verifiable consent for obtaining information from children online and limitations this law places on what can be done with the data. She noted that a challenge was filed to the law.

The discussion moved on to cover aspects of COPA and COPPA at which point the audience was solicited for information and Adam Thierer of the Progress and Freedom Foundation discussed the dangers of age verification and the many state bills being discussed that expand on COPPA. Representatives from three of the COPPA Safe Harbors, Privo, Children's Advertising Review Unit, and Trustee, were present for the discussion and explained how companies comply with COPPA and some of the challenges state legislation in this area will present for companies trying to comply with laws. An audience member representing a small start-up company said they need guidance and they can't afford legal advice on a state-by-state basis. He said there needs to be a central resource to let small companies know what to do. Amanda Lenhart from Pew Research Center said that Pew is collecting data and helping the FTC gather information on kids' use of virtual worlds.

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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