



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA

The Cabinet Office

Department of Communication and Information

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**The Hon. Terry Lister J.P., M.P., Minister of Energy, Telecommunications and E-Commerce launches
Cybertips website dedicated to online safety.**

The Hon Terry Lister J.P, M.P, Minister of Energy, Telecommunications and E-Commerce, today launched a new website – www.cybertips.bm on E-Security day during Techweek.

Brought to you by the Ministry of Energy, Telecommunications and E-Commerce, the aim of the website is to provide practical tips, resources and contact information to parents, teens, children, and educators to use the Internet safely and to be on guard against online predators and other inappropriate content.

Announcing the website today, Minister Lister said: “We in Bermuda enjoy an Information Communications Technology sector that ranks among the worlds most advanced. However, while this Government believes in the importance of promoting technology and the use of the internet, it is imperative to promote responsibility and ensuring a safe online experience.

“Today I’m pleased to announce the launch of a new website that will become one of Bermuda’s main tools in our efforts to promote safe online practices. By knowing the dangers and how to avoid them, you can take advantage of all the positive aspects of the Internet while avoiding its pitfalls.”

In addition to the tips and resources outlined on the website, there is also a reporting link visible on every page. This link provides an opportunity to make a report directly to the Bermuda Police Service if you encounter any incidences of child pornography or the sexual exploitation of children. When you make the report, you have the option of sending information confidentially through Crime Stoppers.

Cybertips contains information on the child Protection Legislation passed in early 2007 as well as information about different aspects of online safety including fraud, cell phone safety, gaming, identity theft as well as how to safely navigate social network sites such as facebook.

The logo for the website is a Bermuda Lizard that has become known as the safety skink. The aim is for the skink to become the symbol for online safety in Bermuda, embraced by children, parents and educators alike and will be a constant reminder for all to stay safe and smart in the online environment. The Department of E-Commerce will also be holding a naming competition for the mascot in the near future.



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The safety skink will be visible on all the websites of all ISPs and cell phone companies and we encourage other businesses and corporations to also adopt the logo and provide a link to cybertips as a public service.

As part of the Government's commitment to online safety an agreement was signed in 2007 with the Microsoft Corporation to use their full package of materials designed to educate people about online safety, especially children. Much of their materials have been included in cybertips.bm. Also included are commercials that will be aired on CITV.

The cybertips initiative has been made possible thanks to the partnership with the carrier community who has demonstrated their commitment to online safety. Local partners include Logic Communications, who are also hosting the cybertips website at their own expense. Cable and Wireless Ltd, Fort Knox Bermuda Ltd., Northrock Communications Ltd. Telebermuda International Limited, Transact Ltd., Cellular One, Digicel and M3 Wireless. Advertising agency emedia designed the website and is also a corporate sponsor in this initiative.

Vicki Coelho, General Manager of Northrock Communications Ltd. Said: "On behalf of the ISP Carrier community we are thrilled to participate in the launch of the Cybertips website. Online safety of the Internet is of great importance to us. We have welcomed the opportunity to work collaboratively with the Ministry of Energy, Telecommunications and E-Commerce, Department of E-Commerce. The Department of E-Commerce consulted the ISP's in ensuring that a Code of Conduct dealing with child protection was developed, defined and implemented. In addition all the ISP's have a highly visible online security link on their websites. This link provides valuable information regarding child online safety. With the launch of Cybertips today Bermuda now has a wonderful new tool to provide additional information to ensure our children are protected and a reporting link to enable people to report incidents."

Government partners include the Ministry of Labour, Home Affairs and Housing, particularly the Bermuda Police Service, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Culture and Social Rehabilitation, Department of Child and Family Services and Consumer Affairs. Members of the Child Protection Task Force, chaired by Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Labour, Home Affairs and Housing Marva O'Brien were also instrumental in driving this initiative.

Acting Deputy Commissioner Bryan Bell said, "Child exploitation and child pornography is the vilest aspect of the internet, this terrible abuse is perpetuated every time someone logs onto or supports such sites. Such crimes committed in Bermuda will be pursued relentlessly. The Bermuda Police Service are delighted to be partners in this initiative, Cybertips not only provides sound advice for all computer users and their parents to help keep them safe when on the Web but is an excellent tool in assisting the police to combat such crime."



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As part of Techweek, events taking place during e-security day include lunch and learns dedicated to Online Safety, Fraud and best practices for online banking. We will also be hosting a presentation this evening by the Bermuda Police Service on online safety and online fraud.

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