

**Minister's Remarks for Cybertips Launch**  
**April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – 10 a.m. – Fairmont Hamilton Princess Gazebo Room.**

Good morning everyone.

Today is e-security day.

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.

Launching today, [www.cybertips.bm](http://www.cybertips.bm) is Bermuda's source on internet safety. 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.

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. We hope the public will use cybertips as a starting point for basic online safety information and continue to educate themselves which can be done through the links on the website.

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. 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.

Our logo for the website that you can see so clearly displayed, is a Bermuda Lizard – we like to call him the - safety skink. We hope it will 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 skink logo is surrounded by a pink safety ring or life preserver to symbolize being safe online.

Our 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.

We will be using the safety skink in future online safety campaigns targeted to youth and students and this Ministry will continue its efforts in promoting online safety as long as threats exist.

As part of this Government's commitment to online safety, you may recall that back in 2007 we signed an agreement 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 promoting online safety that will be aired on CITV.

Many people have been involved in bringing the Child Protection Legislation and all these further initiatives relating to child protection to fruition. And many will continue to work closely with the Department of E-Commerce to ensure that we keep ahead of the game as computer technology and the internet continue to evolve.

This initiative has been made possible thanks to the partnership with the carrier community who has demonstrated their commitment to online safety. And I see many representatives here today from our local partners who 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. I would also like to thank emedia who designed the website and is also a corporate sponsor in this initiative.

Our 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.

I would also like to thank the members of the Child Protection Task Force whose dedicated efforts resulted in legislation to combat child pornography and internet luring. This task force will continue to meet to champion initiatives relating to the protection of children, particularly in the online environment.

The public/private partnership facilitated by the Department of E-Commerce is truly the most effective way to ensure the entire community will benefit from all the hard work done over the past few years on all aspects of child protection and online safety. All that hard work has paid off, and we now have the knowledge, know-how, and tools available to do everything we can to protect every member of society from the perils of the internet, while enjoying all the technological marvels that 21<sup>st</sup> century technology has provided.

As part of Techweek, events taking place today 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 and I encourage members of the public to attend

And lastly, I encourage you all to log onto [cybertips.bm](http://cybertips.bm). Encourage your friends, family, neighbours, and colleagues to do the same. Educate yourself, and help others understand how to surf safely online.

Thank you, and enjoy the rest of Techweek.

I would now like to invite Vicki Coelho, General Manager of Northrock Communications Ltd. To say a few words on behalf of the local carrier community – Vicki...