

SECTION 1



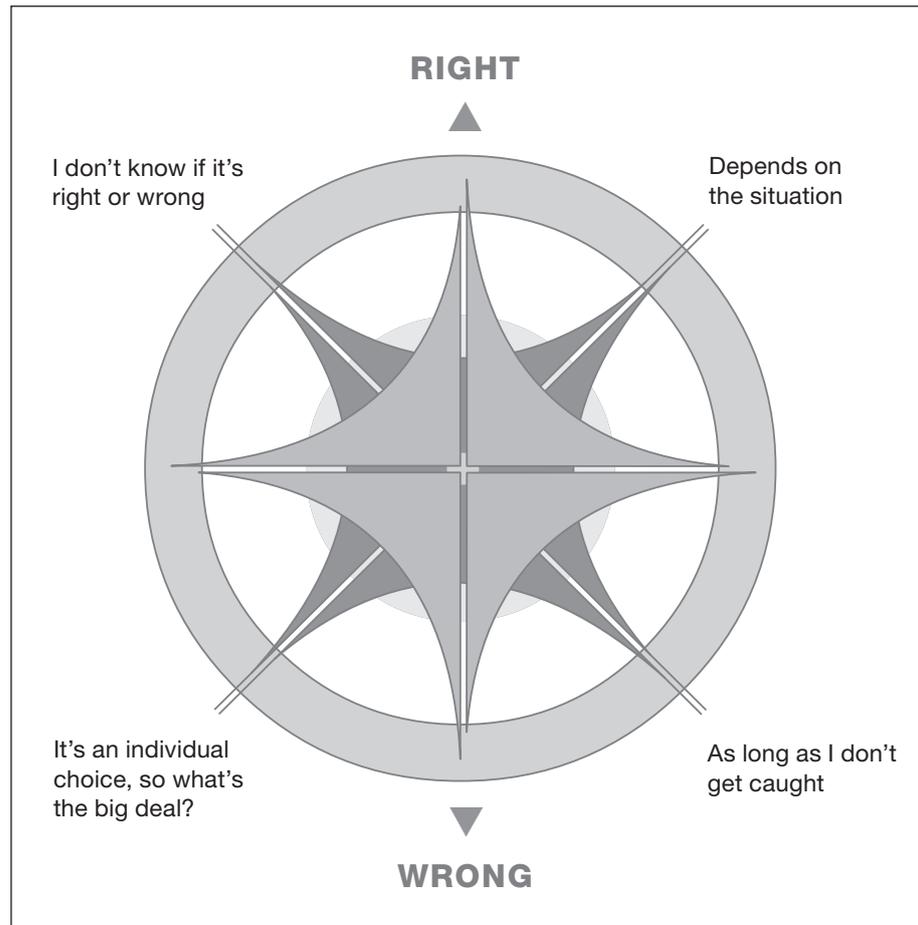
Understanding Digital Citizenship

May you live in interesting times.

—Chinese proverb and curse

This saying seems to fit very well with where we are with technology today. We do live in interesting times, but we need to decide what “interesting” means.

Does interesting mean, as the saying implies, a time of chaos? Perhaps it does. We are in a time of much change, and technology is in large part the cause of this change. In just the last two decades we have seen the growth of the Internet from the playground of a few to the way many of us gather our information each day.



Digital Compass for the 21st Century, a way to orient yourself on the path to digital citizenship.

*Digital Communication Extra***Instant Messaging Lingo**

Parents with children who are instant messaging online or texting on their mobile phones are aware that there is a whole other language out there. Some of the new words are used for speed and efficiency. Others are code for when adults might be around. For those who have not yet learned about this shorthand lingo, here is a brief list of the more popular abbreviations.

ASL:	Age/sex/location	MOS:	Mum over shoulder
BRB:	Be right back	PAW:	Parents are watching
CD9:	Code 9 (means parents are around)	PIR:	Parent(s) in room
D8:	Date	POS:	Parent(s) over shoulder
DIKU?:	Do I know you?	PRON or pr0n:	Intentional misspelling of porn
F2F:	Face-to-face	SOB:	Stressed out big-time
GR8:	Great	TTFN:	Ta ta for now
H8:	Hate	TTYL, TTUL, T2UL, or T2YL:	Talk to you later
KPC:	Keep parents clueless	UOK:	[Are] you OK?
L8R:	Later		
LOL:	Laughing out loud or laugh out loud		

Digital Security

DEFINITION: *The precautions that all technology users must take to guarantee their personal safety and the security of their network*

One of the technology topics that is least considered is the one that can cause the most problems. Most people assume that all new technology has some sort of built-in security or they just don't think about it at all. As technologies such as mobile phones and MP3 players become more sophisticated, the possibility of that technology becoming infected or worse – taken over by a virus or other malicious software – becomes more real.

Most computer users know what viruses are – programs that arrive on a computer without the user's knowledge and that use up the available memory or cause other damage. However, technology users may not think about keeping their virus protection programs up-to-date, configuring firewall protection or encrypting wireless routers for maximum protection (or they may not know how). Many don't know if they have the software or hardware they need to protect their data. Users are storing more of their personal information on their home computers. This information, if compromised, could lead to identity theft. Children need to know that the protection is there to prevent unwanted intrusion into the household information.

People may believe the cost of security software packages to be too expensive or that the time and effort to set them up is too large a burden. If you have ever spoken to people whose hard drive crashed or who had their data destroyed because of a virus or hardware failure, you can understand the stress involved. Today people bank, shop and work on their computers. Without protection and proper backups, valuable information can be gone forever. Technology users need to determine what the potential loss of all their data would mean. Consider also that if you are not protected against viruses, you might spread them to others, potentially damaging their data through your negligence.

The newest concerns are spyware and adware. Spyware collects information about users through their Internet connections, such as the websites they go to. This can be used for advertising purposes. Some spyware, however, compiles email addresses, passwords and credit card numbers as well. Adware is a kind of spyware that gathers information about the user's browsing preferences in order to show advertisements in the browser window specifically geared to that user.

Most technology users feel secure with the virus protection they have, but these programs rarely protect against spyware and adware. Like some viruses, spyware and adware can provide information to someone else about you and your family. Some of the information can be fairly

Quiz for Younger Children (Ages 7–11)**Digital Manners (Etiquette)**

1. Having your mobile phone turned on during dinner with your family is:
 - a. a bad idea because it might interrupt your family.
 - b. a good idea for keeping in touch with friends.
 - c. no big deal because everyone else does it.
 - d. your choice, one that doesn't affect anyone else.

Digital Messages (Communication)

2. When writing on a blog, should you share personal information (address, phone number, birthday)?
 - a. Sure. A blog is like a diary, so personal information is important.
 - b. It doesn't matter. Only my friends read my blog.
 - c. No. A blog can be open to people you may not want having that information.
 - d. Sure, as long as I don't use my name.

Digital Learning (Literacy)

3. When learning about technology, it is important for you to know:
 - a. the rules for using technology.
 - b. how to work with others when using the technology.
 - c. how different technologies are used.
 - d. all of the above.

Digital Inclusion (Access)

4. Children with disabilities (those who aren't able to see, hear or walk):
 - a. can't use technology.
 - b. should have the same opportunities as others to use technology.
 - c. are not able to understand and learn about technology.
 - d. have no reason to use technology.