CYBERSECURITY

Digital Footprints

All activities that people engage in online (ex. browsing websites, liking posts, and leaving comments) would be saved in a trail, and these are digital footprints. **Digital footprints** reveal **online identities.** It is essential for people to **protect and shape their digital footprints**, be kind and understanding, and remain positive.

Avoid Posting 'YAPPY' Messages

To protect privacy and practice safety, it is important to avoid sharing the following information online:

- **Y**our full name
- **A**ddress
- **P**hone number
- **P**asswords
- **Y**our plans and birthday

Don't	*Do*
Post travel plans on social media because this signals to others that homes or possessions are not being guarded.	Be sure to review online posts to ensure personal information is not easily accessible by zooming into photos (ex. account numbers, license plates, and photo IDs).

Think Twice!

Think twice before posting information that is personal, or can be taken out of context. Common examples of posts that have resurfaced and impacted personal and professional interactions include:

- Opinions
- Clubs/teams
- Photos/videos
- Political posts
- Information about others

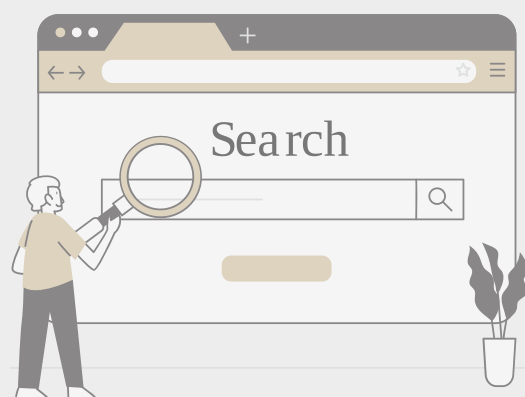| *Don't*	*Do*
Be caught in compromising positions that, if documented, could be viewed or interpreted negatively.	Consider how decisions may impact long-term interactions and aspirations. For instance, select culturally appropriate costumes and make-up during festivities.

Evaluate!

Searching for yourself online is a good strategy to track digital footprints. Consider:

- Searching for your name and information online regularly
- Change the privacy settings on online accounts to ensure personal information is not shared

Don't	*Do*
Don't allow social media users to tag you in photos that are inappropriate. Instead, report photos that are inappropriate and unfriend or report social media abusers.	Review social media websites, career websites, blogs, and personal portfolios that have been self-created. Remove and delete media that is inappropriate.

References:

- Boyle, J. (n.d.). How should students manage their digital footprints? *Teach Thought*. https://www.teachthought.com/the-future-of-learning/digital-footprints/
- Common Sense Education. (n.d.). Social media and digital footprints: Our responsibilities. https://www.commonsense.org/education/digital-citizenship/lesson/social-media-and-digital-footprints-our-responsibilities
- Common Sense Education. (n.d.). The power of digital footprints. https://www.commonsense.org/education/digital-citizenship/lesson/the-power-of-digital-footprints
- Morris, K. (2018, June 12). Teaching children about digital footprints and online reputations (with student poster). *Primary Tech: Helping teachers create digitally literate global learners*. http://www.kathleenamorris.com/2018/06/12/digital-footprints/