

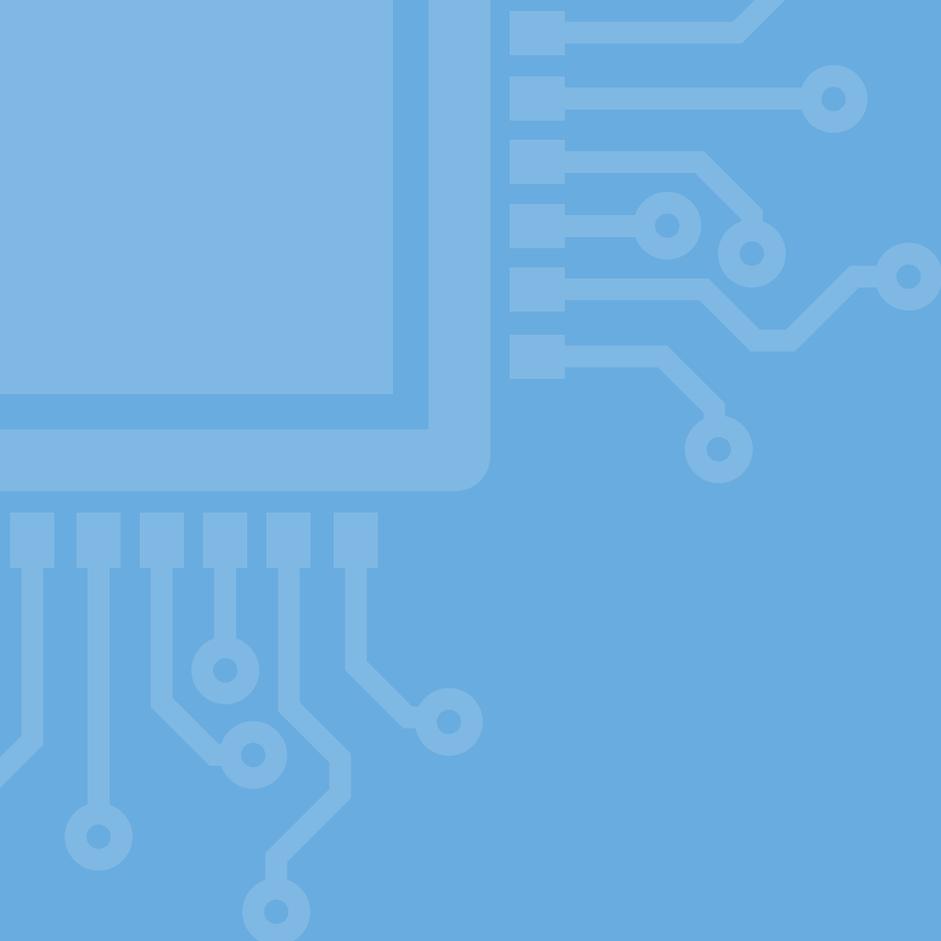
CYBER CHOICES

HACKING IT LEGAL

Help your child to make positive choices

PARENTS/GUARDIANS/CARERS





CYBER CHOICES

www.cyberchoices.uk

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HELLO

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO PICK UP THIS BOOKLET

It's been specially designed to introduce the Cyber Choices initiative to parents, guardians and carers, to explain where the legal boundaries are online and give details of resources children can use to develop their cyber skills.

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INTRODUCTION

Our children are immersed in communications and computing technology, including phones, tablets, laptops, PCs, game consoles, TVs, smart devices and of course the internet.

Many young people are curious and want to explore how these things work, how they interact with each other and what vulnerabilities they have. This can include learning to code and experimenting with tools and techniques discovered online, on video streaming websites, or discussed in forums.

These are great skills to have and the cyber security industry is desperately short of people with them. This means that salaries and prospects in that sector are lucrative. However some people make poor choices and use such skills illegally, often in ignorance

of the law. The average age of someone convicted of cyber crime is much younger than other crime types — offenders are often teenagers.

Some young people are vulnerable to becoming involved in cyber crime or have already committed offences. They may be motivated by a desire to challenge their skills, boredom or a lack of understanding of the law and the consequences of breaking it. They may be illegally hacking or using stressor services while gaming for example. The Cyber Choices team want to prevent this through the education of young people and showing them the legal route.



CYBER CHOICES

The Cyber Choices network was created to help people make positive choices and use their cyber skills in a legal way.

This is a national initiative co-ordinated by the National Crime Agency and delivered locally by regional Cyber Choices teams.

The aims of the programme are to:

- Explain the difference between legal and illegal cyber activity
- Encourage individuals to make informed choices in their use of technology
- Deter and/or divert individuals from cyber crime
- Promote legal and ethical cyber opportunities

We achieve these by:

- Giving presentations, for example at school assemblies, youth clubs or conferences
- Attending events such as gaming and computer exhibitions
- Promoting interesting and legal ways to use and develop cyber skills including online competitions

We also work with specific individuals who may be vulnerable to becoming involved in cyber crime or in some cases, have committed offences, to divert them onto a more positive path.



HELP YOUR CHILD MAKE POSITIVE CHOICES

The Cyber Choices team want to help assist parents, guardians and carers who are supporting their children in the positive progression of their cyber learning and development. With the right knowledge you can instil in your child an understanding of the law in relation to computing in the same way you do when it comes to stealing or criminal damage. This booklet contains information on the Computer Misuse Act to help you understand what the laws are, as well as a number of resources that you can direct a young person to so they can progress skills legally.



CYBER CHOICES

Anyone can contact the Cyber Choices team, including parents, teachers, social workers or law enforcement.

ENGAGING WITH CYBER CHOICES

If you would like any advice around any of this content. You can email cyberchoices@nca.gov.uk

In most cases, the NCA or one of our regional partners can provide you with expert advice or can talk to your child before things go too far.

Information you provide will be held in confidence. However, if criminal offences or risks of harm are reported to us, we may pass that information on to appropriate partners, if necessary.

Please note, the Cyber Choices team cannot work with anyone who's subject to a cyber crime investigation until the conclusion of the case. Working with

the Cyber Choices team does not prevent an individual being prosecuted for crimes committed, however there may be possibilities for alternative outcomes.

INFORMATION PACKS

A range of these information packs are available offering information for various age groups, as well as a leaflet that explains the Computer Misuse Act 1990. Please contact cyberchoices@nca.gov.uk to request digital copies of these.



CHOOSE THE LEGAL OR ILLEGAL PATH?

Young people with an aptitude for coding or hacking have a life choice. Will your child choose the legal or illegal path?

If your child has an interest in computers/technology, it's important to have a discussion with them about their use of it. Recognising and engaging with this interest is key to ensuring that they follow the correct pathway.

If you're concerned, talk to your child about the importance of honesty and legality. Explain the consequences of involvement in cyber crime and of breaking the Computer Misuse Act 1990, as detailed within this section. Explain the enjoyable, lucrative and legal options available to them. These include coding, engineering, web development, penetration testing, security operations, law enforcement and many more roles in both the public and private sectors.

Search for computing and coding clubs available in your area and encourage

your child to join the appropriate one for their age and ability.

Consequences of breaking the Computer Misuse Act 1990 may include:

- Receiving a visit and warning from the police or NCA officers
- Being arrested
- Getting a criminal record
- Having devices seized
- Being banned or limited in your internet use
- Being expelled from school
- Not being able to get the job you want
- Not being able to travel to certain countries

... or all of the above!



THE COMPUTER MISUSE ACT 1990



SECTION 1

Unauthorised access to computer material.

SECTION 2

Unauthorised access with intent to commit or facilitate commission of further offences.

SECTION 3

Unauthorised acts with intent to impair, or with recklessness as to impairing, operation of computer.

SECTION 3ZA

Unauthorised acts causing, or creating risk of, serious damage.

SECTION 3A

Making, supplying or obtaining articles for use in offence under section 1, 3 or 3ZA



A CRIMINAL RECORD COULD AFFECT EDUCATION AND FURTHER CAREER PROSPECTS SO GET TO KNOW THE LEGAL BOUNDARIES WHILST ONLINE. READ MORE ON PAGE 7

FOR EXAMPLE

- ▶ **Adam watches his friend enter their username and password. Adam remembers their login details and without their permission, later logs in and reads all their messages.**
- ▶ **You leave your tablet on the sofa. Without your permission, Raj accesses your gaming account and buys game credits with the attached credit card.**
- ▶ **Sarah is playing an online game with a friend who scores higher than her. Sarah uses a 'Booter' tool knowing it will knock them offline, so she can win the game.**
- ▶ **Kim hacks into a police network. This results in delays to emergency calls and even though it was not her intention, she was reckless in her actions.**
- ▶ **Robin downloads software so he can bypass login credentials and hack into his friend's laptop, however he has not had a chance to use it yet.**



RESOURCES

The Cyber Choices website gives more information on cyber crime and preventing young people from committing it...

www.cyberchoices.uk

There are numerous fun, exciting and stimulating online activities available to test, challenge and develop cyber skills, whether or not your child is considering a career in tech.

CODING

If a young person has an interest in coding, there are lots of online resources and clubs where they can progress their abilities.

Codecademy

Filled with online resources where young people can progress their knowledge.

www.codecademy.com

CoderDojo

Free, local coding clubs worldwide for young people.

www.coderdojo.com



Code Club

A global network of free coding clubs for 9–13 year olds, where they can create games, animations and web pages using Scratch, Python or HTML/CSS.

www.codeclub.org/en/

SKILLS CHALLENGE

Cyber Security Challenge

Competitions designed to test cyber skills, created by industry professionals looking for the next generation of cyber defenders.

www.cybersecuritychallenge.org.uk

GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES

Initiatives run by the UK government to sharpen cyber skills and find the next generation of cyber talent.

CyberFirst

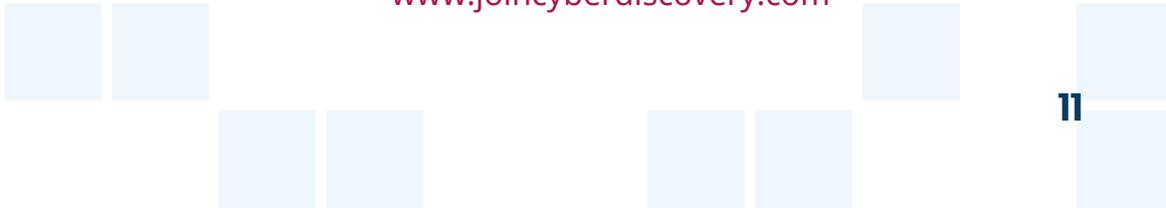
Developing the UK's next generation of cyber professionals through student bursaries, courses and competitions. For 11–17 year olds.

www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberfirst/overview

Cyber Discovery

HM Government's free, online, extracurricular programme turning teenagers aged 13–18 across the country into cyber security pros.

www.joincyberdiscovery.com



ONLINE TRAINING

There are online platforms available to sharpen cyber skills.

Hack The Box

A gamified and hands-on training platform that helps young people learn and advance their skills in penetration testing and cyber security.

www.hackthebox.eu

Vulnhub

Provides online materials allowing users to gain practical hands-on experience with digital security, computer applications and network administration tasks.

www.vulnhub.com

Cybrary

Online IT and cyber security training platform. Self-paced learning, ideal for a young person to grow their skill set.

www.cybrary.it

SANS Cyber Aces

An online course that teaches the core concepts needed to assess and protect information security systems.

www.cyberaces.org





FURTHER EDUCATION

If a young person has an interest in furthering their learning, the following resources provide a wealth of information.

NCSC

The National Cyber Security Centre website contains a lot of information on both academic and professional qualifications in cyber security.

www.ncsc.gov.uk

UCAS

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service has full details of university courses and entry requirements. The site also details apprenticeships. There are a number of institutions offering cyber security as a specialism.

www.ucas.com





FUTURE CAREERS

Skills in coding, gaming, computer programming, cyber security or anything IT related are in high demand. There are many careers and opportunities available to someone with an interest in these areas.

TechFuture Careers

A great place to find out about the exciting tech roles available in companies from loads of different sectors. Whether a young person wants to work in fashion, music, media or business, there's a tech role for them.

www.tpdegrees.com/careers

Girl Geeks

Supports untapped talent and females in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) through offering inspiration, connections and opportunities.

www.girlgeeks.uk

Inspired Careers

An innovative virtual hub that explores all of the job roles and career paths open. There are currently 87 different roles listed in cyber security.

www.inspiredcareers.org

CREST

An international not-for-profit accreditation and certification body that represents and supports the technical information security market. CREST has produced some careers guidance for those that are looking to go into cyber security.

www.crest-approved.org/professional-development/crest-careers-guides/index.html

CURIOUS TO KNOW HOW MUCH CAN BE EARNED WORKING IN CYBER SECURITY?

[www.itjobswatch.co.uk/jobs/uk/
cybersecurity.do](http://www.itjobswatch.co.uk/jobs/uk/cybersecurity.do)



Traineeships

These are designed to help people who want to get an apprenticeship or job but don't yet have appropriate skills or experience.

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/
traineeships-programme](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/traineeships-programme)

Apprenticeships

These are available through college websites and the Government site below.

[www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.
uk/apprenticeshipsearch](http://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch)

Bug Bounties

Many companies now offer 'bug bounty' schemes. They offer financial incentives for hackers who find and report vulnerabilities in their systems so they can be rectified. These can be a great way for hackers to challenge their skills whilst making money. However it is essential that the terms and conditions of these schemes are read and strictly adhered to. Failure to follow these or to report vulnerabilities correctly can result in individuals inadvertently committing crime.

All the third party websites listed are publicly available for personal development.

They are not necessarily endorsed, supported or monitored by the NCA or UK law enforcement.

All links and web addresses were checked and verified to be correct at the time of publication.



GLOSSARY

Anti-Virus

Software that is designed to detect, stop and remove viruses and other kinds of malicious software.

Bitcoin

An electronic currency which can be used to purchase goods or services online.

Black Hat / Illegal

A hacker who illegally hacks for a variety of reasons, including for the challenge or to benefit themselves.

Booter

Used to launch a Denial of Service or Distributed Denial of Service attack. Also known as a stressor.

Botnet

A botnet is a group of infected computers controlled by a single command. Criminals can create such a network by infecting individuals' computers with malware to gain control of them.

Cloud

Storing and accessing computing and storage over the internet, for example — software, databases and services.

Denial of Service (DoS) and Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS).

A cyber attack involving the bombarding of a website or web service (such as email) by sending it multiple requests / data messages. If these come from multiple origins simultaneously it is 'Distributed'. These usually involve a botnet being used to carry out the attack.

Hacker

Someone with computer skills who uses them to break into computers, systems and networks (legally or not).

Malware

This is an abbreviation of malicious software. A term that includes viruses, trojans, worms, ransomware or any code or content that could have an adverse impact on a device or system.



Phishing

The sending of untargeted, fraudulent messages to many people, usually to infect the recipient's system with malware by encouraging them to visit a fake website or click on a link.

Ransomware

A type of malware that makes data on systems unusable or encrypted until the victim makes a ransom payment in order to decrypt their data — payment is commonly requested in bitcoin.

Remote Access Trojan (RAT)

A hard to detect type of malware that infects a target's system, and allows the infector complete control over that system including to passwords, data and attached microphones/cameras. Also known as, RAT or Remote Access Tool.



Social Engineering

Manipulating people into doing something unwittingly. This includes divulging personal, technical or other valuable information.

Spear Phishing

The sending of targeted fraudulent messages to selected people, usually to infect the recipient's system with malware by encouraging them to visit a fake website or click on a link.

Virtual Private Network (VPN)

Software which creates an encrypted online connection to another network or system. It can also be used to mask the origin or location of the user.

White Hat / Legal

A legal computer hacker, or computer security specialist, who specialises in lawful penetration testing or other security testing.





GET IN TOUCH

If you have concerns over your child's activities, talk to us. Our aim is crime prevention through intervention, introducing positive diversions and deterring young people from crime.

We hope you have found this Cyber Choices information useful. Used legally, skills in digital technology and computing can lead to an exciting and well paid career. Millions of cyber professionals are already needed and demand will only increase in the future.

Having a better understanding of a child's interests can help to safeguard them in their activities online. We hope that this guide has been helpful in that respect.

If you would like any further information or advice on Cyber Choices, please contact us via cyberchoices@nca.gov.uk

Information you provide will be held in confidence. However, if criminal offences or risks of harm are reported to us, we may pass that information on to appropriate partners, if necessary.



NOTES



A photograph of two young women with long hair, one wearing glasses, looking intently at a computer screen. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent pink filter. At the top right, there are several white diagonal lines.

CYBER CHOICES

HELPING YOU CHOOSE A
POSITIVE AND LEGAL PATH





CYBER CHOICES
www.cyberchoices.uk