

How Permanent Internet Information Can Be

Lesson 4, Student Activity 4

The Internet is a huge network of servers and a single piece of information can be stored on multiple servers. Information placed online stays on those servers until somebody removes it, but just removing it from one server does not remove it from other servers. Any content you post online may remain forever on your Web site, and if someone copies that information they may send it to individuals or post it on other sites. That piece of information may appear in many, many places without you ever knowing about it, and it may appear in places where you can't ask a service to take it down or a person, who sees it inadvertently, to ignore it.

Try to imagine that a cyberbully snaps an unflattering picture of a friend of yours on the playfield and posts it on a MySpace page.

Where could such a picture end up? Take notes below from your discussion.

Journal assignment: What if a friend of yours thinks its fun to embarrass other kids using blogs and IMs to send creepy comments. He/she also likes to take unflattering pictures of certain kids and posts them on **MySpace** sites. Your friend thinks this is "just joking around" and really does not realize how permanent this information can be and consequently how permanently hurtful it could be. Your task is to explain to your friend in a journal entry just how his/her bullying actions can be permanent even if he/she apologizes and/or removes the information from the site.