

Simon Grehan

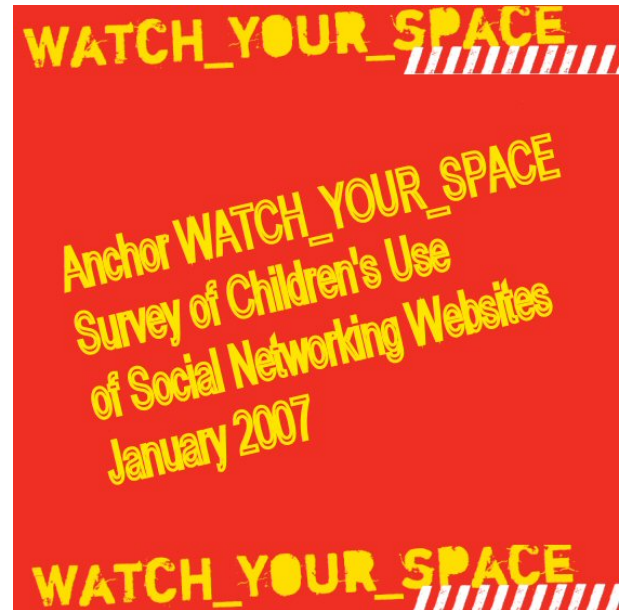
Irish Children's Use Of Social Networking  
Websites



**WATCH\_YOUR\_SPACE**

# What I'll be talking about today

- Introduction
- What Irish Children are doing on Social networks?



# About the Webwise Internet Safety Initiative

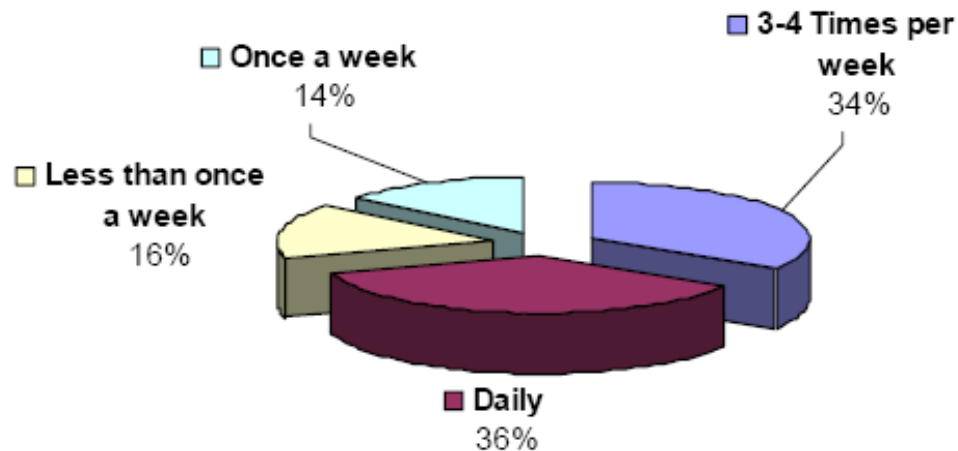
- Managed by the National Centre for Technology in Education
- Research Children's Use of the Internet
- Monitor Emerging Internet Technologies
- Identify Online Risk Behaviour
- Behaviour change programme
  - Resources for schools
  - Awareness campaigns
  - Teacher training



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## How Often?

Frequency of Social Networking Website Access

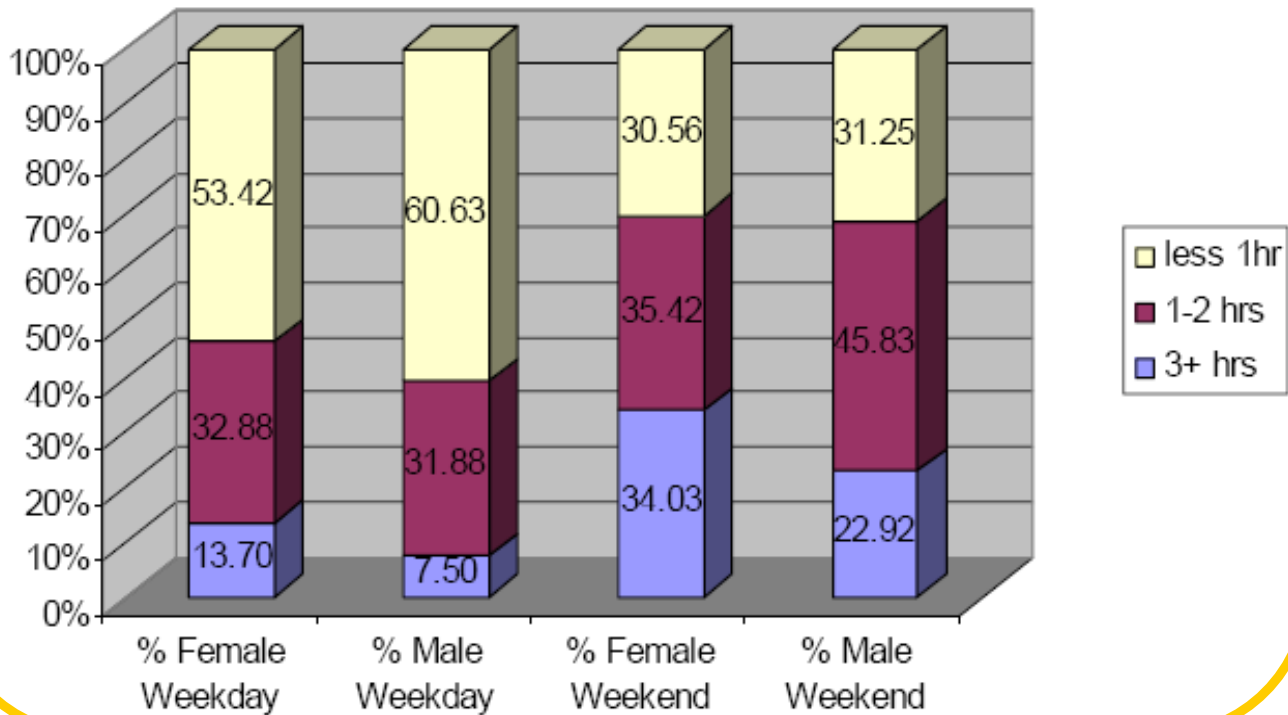


no difference between boys and girls in terms of the frequency that they were accessing these sites.

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# How Long?

## Time Spent on Social Networking Websites

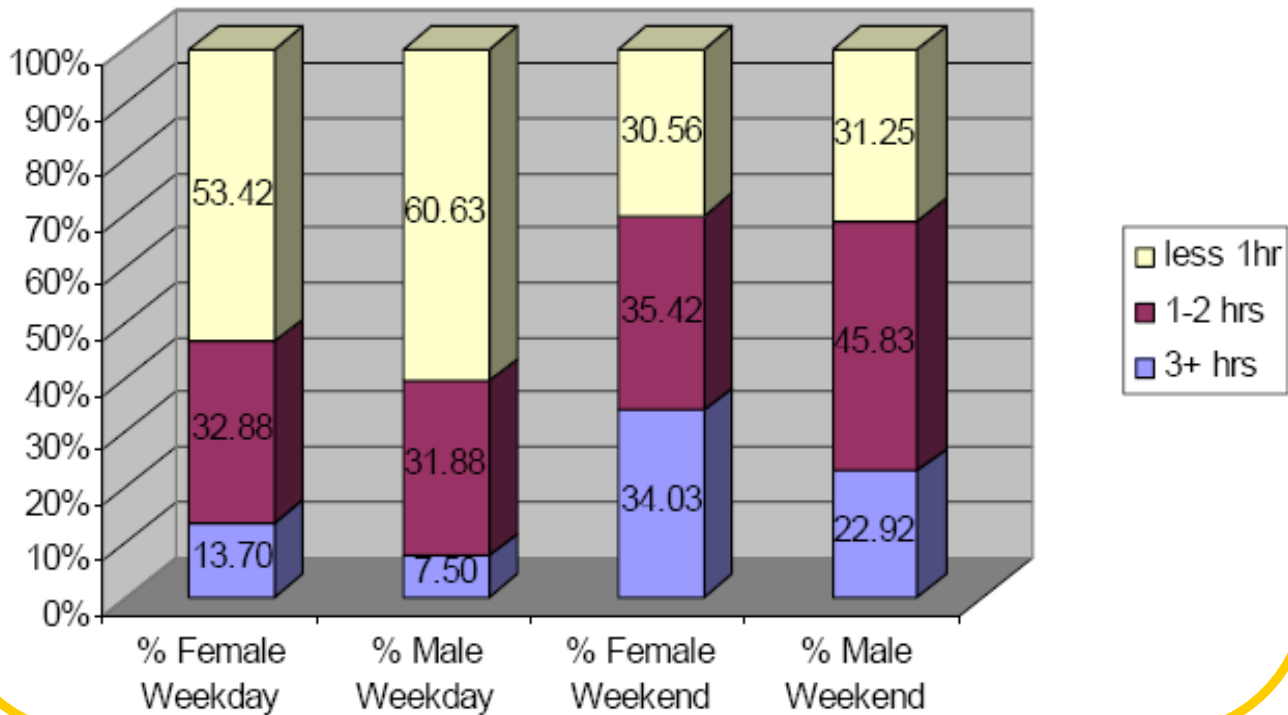


Girls appear to be engaging in longer sessions.

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# How Long?

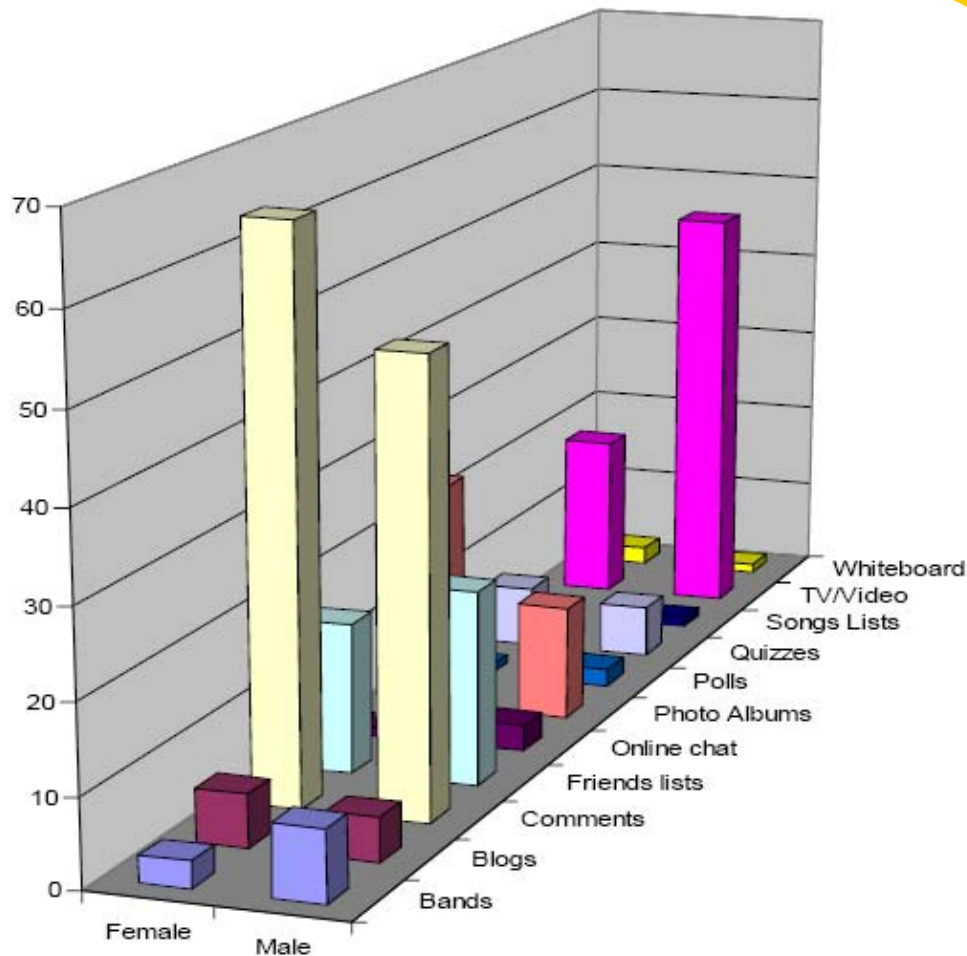
### Time Spent on Social Networking Websites



Girls appear to be engaging in longer sessions.

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# Favourite Features?

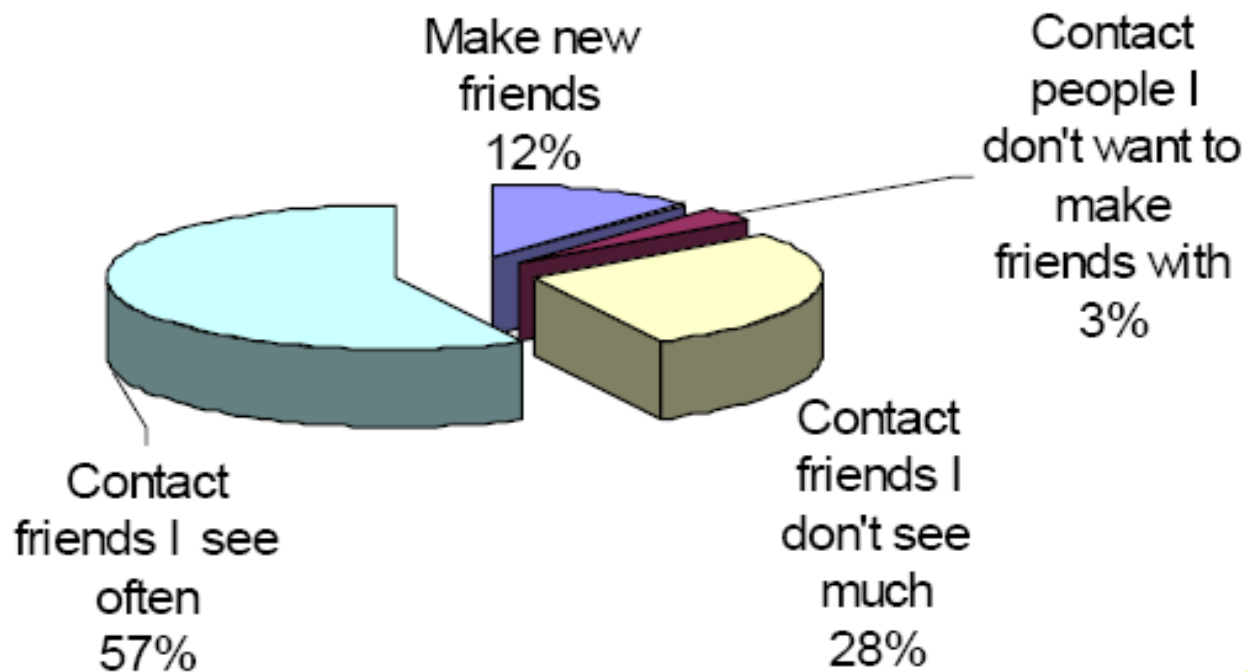


*Comments* are their favourite feature, it was more popular with girls. Boys seem to favour video content where girls preferred photos.

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## Primary Use?

### Primary Use of Social Networking websites



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Which of the following personal information is publicly displayed on your profile?

Personal information disclosed.

Home address	8%
Mobile phone	12%
Date of birth	49%
Name	79%

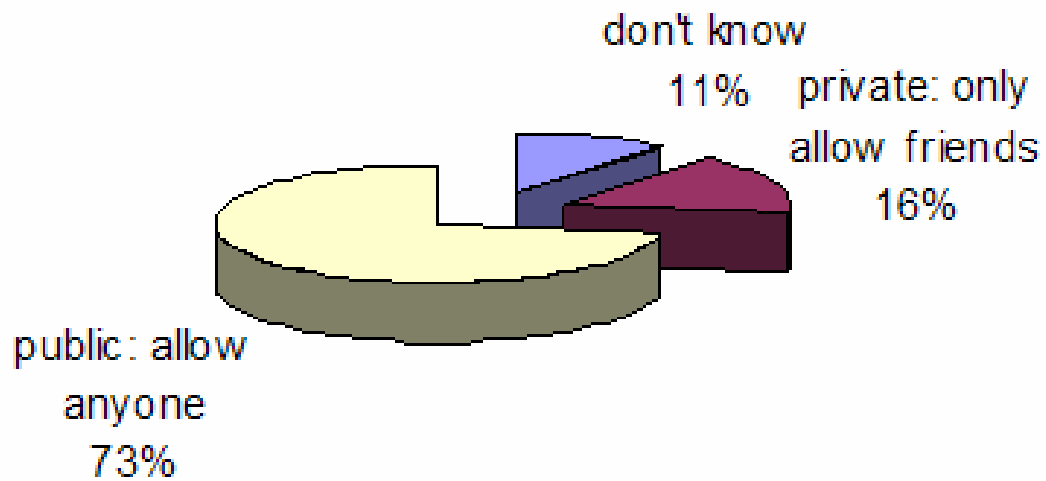
Greater Awareness in Ireland of Protecting Personal Information. Mobile Phones information of some concern.

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## Public or Private ?

### Public or Private

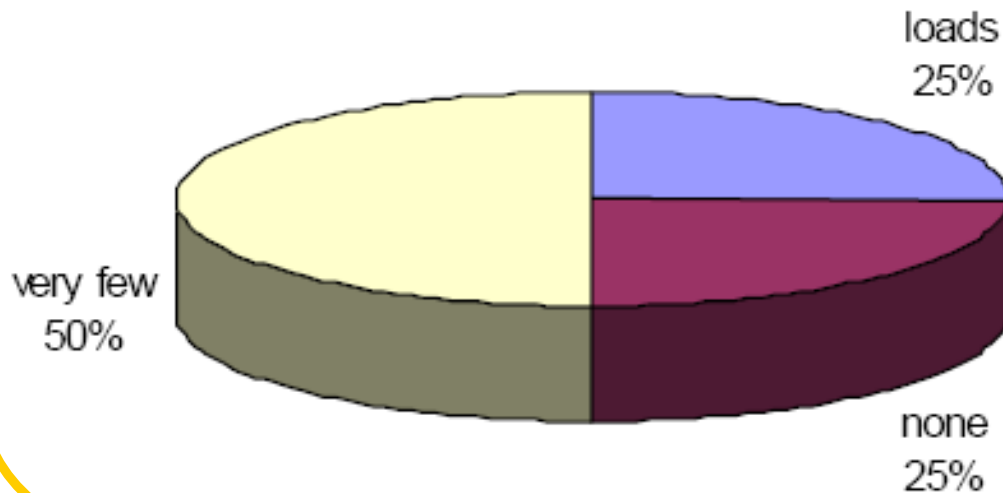


'Private' is  
a dubious  
concept.

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## Making Friends?

Have you accepted as 'friends' people who you have NOT met before?

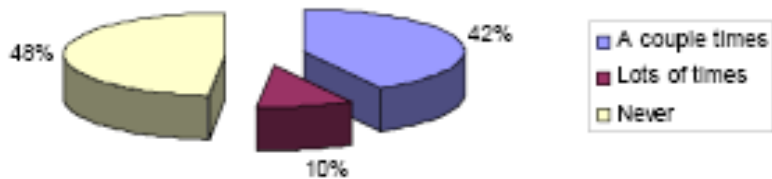


'Private' is a flawed concept. Three quarters have 'friends' they have never met.

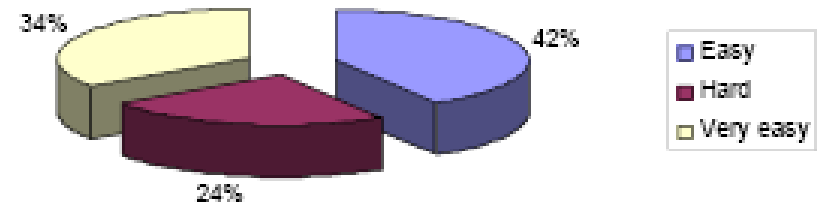
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## Inappropriate Uses?

Have you ever encountered Bullying Content on an SNW?



Is it possible to encounter Pornographic Content on SNW sites?



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## Why are Social Networking sites Popular with young people?

- Free
- Easy to use
- Useful for Key life events for teenagers
  - establishing independent identity
  - Socialisation
- A place free from Adult Supervision. There is less opportunity to hang-out with peers offline.

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## Myth busting: Bebo = The Best/Worst Thing Ever

- Moral Panic - Paedophiles, porn, addictive
- Techno-Evangelists - transforming + revolutionary.
- Just another tool to make their lives easier.
- Risks are real and some children have negative experiences online but most don't.
- Key = understanding children's digital lives

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# Advice

- DO NOT respond to the message as this will only make things worse
- DO keep a record of the message so that the problem can be dealt with properly
- DO block the sender
- Report it!
- DO talk to someone in authority about what has happened

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Experts  
Watch Your Profile  
Watch Your Image  
Report / Talk  
Ask A Question  
Links

**YOU?**

About  
Contact

**TAKE CONTROL**

Being online is **very public** and **very real**, although it doesn't always feel that way. Take the time to find out how to stay in control when you are uploading pictures or creating profiles.

Be creative!  
Be yourself!  
Be in control!

[<<CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD POSTERS>>](#)

**DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT**

[REPORT OR TALK](#)

**>> FACT:**

27 percent of Irish 9 to 16 year olds said they met someone new on the Internet who asked for information like their photo, phone number, street address, or the school you attend. This is an increase from 19 percent in 2003.

This picture is real and was taken from the Internet

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Discover the Internet together. Be the one to introduce your child to the Internet. This could make it easier to share both positive and negative experience-



Click on the topics below to find out more...

- Surfwise
- Chatwise
- Sharewise
- Gamewise

Technologies Search Choose... GO

### Social Networking Survey



"The Anchor WATCH\_YOUR\_SPACE Survey" is the first survey in Ireland to look at how young people are using social networking websites such as Bebo, My Space and YouTube. More...

### Safer Internet Day 2007, 6th Feb



Webwise, as the Irish node of the Insafe network, is joining with partners around the world to promote increased awareness of the issue of online privacy through its support of the Safer Internet Day Blogathon. More...

### Watch Your Space Video Survey



Webwise has developed a short video that will give you an insight into what teenagers are doing online, what they think the risks are, and what advice they share with each other

#### Internet Safety Video

Click here >>>

#### Links

Click here >>>

#### Presentations

Click here >>>

#### Resources for Schools

Click here >>>

#### Publications

Click here >>>

#### Learning Resources





Simon Grehan

Webwise - Internet Safety Initiative

01-7008200

[internetsafety@ncte.ie](mailto:internetsafety@ncte.ie)

[www.webwise.ie](http://www.webwise.ie)

[www.watchyourspace.ie](http://www.watchyourspace.ie)



National Centre for Technology in Education

Ionad Náisiúnta don Teicneolaíocht san Oideachas

