Intellectual Property Tips
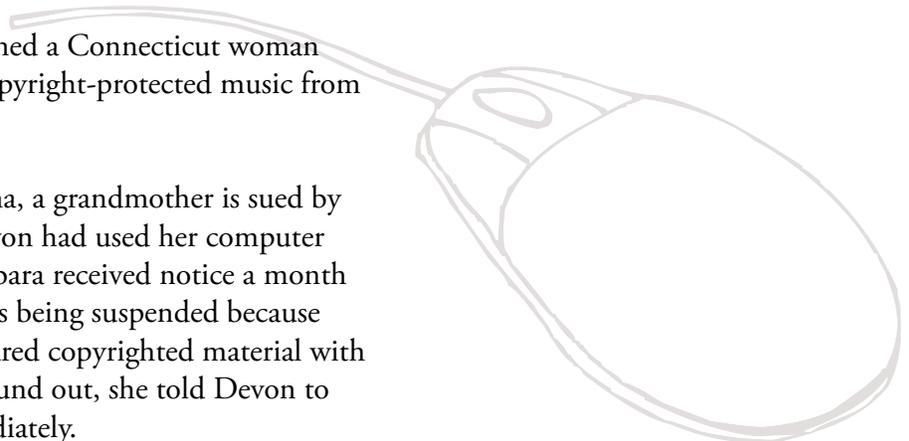
The Facts!

• An estimated 2.5 billion dollars lost by the movie industry and 4.1 billion lost by the music industry due to Internet piracy.

• Over 50% of the students polled by i-SAFE America have copied/downloaded music from the Internet.

• The Business Software Alliance estimates over 840,000 Internet sites sell illegal software.

• The Recording Industry Association of America, as reported by Billboard Bulletin, is blaming illegal file-sharing for the 15.8% drop in mid-year 2003 music shipments.

• Legally, recording labels can demand $150,000 per song for copyright infringement.

• A recent investigation indicates that more than 60% of software sold through Internet auction sites is counterfeit, and more than 90% is sold in violation of the publisher's license agreement.

Consider This!

Bridgeport, Conn.—A federal judge has fined a Connecticut woman $6,000 for allegedly downloading copyright-protected music from the Internet.

May 5, 2004—In Lafayette, South Carolina, a grandmother is sued by RIAA for $3,500. Her grandson Devon had used her computer to illegally download 520 songs. Barbara received notice a month prior from AOL that her account was being suspended because she had illegally downloaded and shared copyrighted material with people on the Internet. When she found out, she told Devon to stop the downloading activity immediately.

The Rules of the Road

• US Copyright Law (Title 17 U.S.C. Section 101 et seq., Title 18 U.S.C. Section 2319) protects copyright owners from the unauthorized reproduction, adaption, or distribution of sound and video recordings, as well as certain digital performances to the public. Basically, it is illegal to steal the creative work of others and claim it as your own.

• Downloading music and movies without paying on unsanctioned sites is illegal and can result in criminal penalties

• There is a good possibility of downloading a virus when using peer-to-peer sites for downloading intellectual property such as music, videos, and photos.

• Don't fall for a well-designed site. Often, illegal businesses have slick sites that can fool even the experienced online user.

• Get full company addresses and phone numbers up front.

• Avoid sites that are unwilling to give full details on services and policies.

The Facts!

- E-mail has surpassed the telephone as today's means of communication.

- One in five children who use computer chatrooms have been approached over the Internet by pedophiles.

- 1 in 4 students participate in real-time chats.

- A study by the NOP Research Group found that of the four million children aged 7 to 17 who surf the net, 29% percent would freely give out their home address and 14% would freely give out their e-mail address if asked.

- There are 250,000 to 500,000 pedophiles in the United States, according to the U.S Department of Justice (which equates to one pedophile in every 100-200 Internet users).

- 2 million new Internet users per month. Do you know with whom you are chatting?

Consider This!

Thirteen-year-old Kacie Woody liked to play soccer, sing, and chat online. On December 3, 2002, she vanished from her home in Holland, Arkansas. Police found her body, along with that of her abductor, 19 hours later in a storage facility. She had been murdered by 47-year-old David Fuller of La Mesa, California, who then committed suicide. Kacie's friends told police that she had had an ongoing online relationship with some boy named David whom she believed was another teenager. Signs of a struggle at her home indicated that she was unaware that he was coming to see her and unwilling to go anywhere with him.

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The Rules of the Road

- Don't give out identifying information on the Internet. These are things like your full name, address, age, school, and phone number.

- Review your screen name and see if it reveals too much information about you.

- Check your profile. You may be displaying information about yourself that predators can use.

- Screen your buddy list. Do you really know who's on there?

- Some people lie on the Internet. Unless you know the person, don't believe that pictures sent to you are the actual person you are chatting with.

- Take a stand. Don't be afraid to say no and log off.

- Tell a trusted adult or police officer if you or a friend gets into a dangerous situation!

- Be aware of strangers asking too many personal questions and trying to become friends quickly.

- Learn and practice the 4 R's of Internet safety

Remember the 4 R's

RECOGNIZE techniques used by online predators to deceive their victims.

REFUSE requests for personal information.

RESPOND assertively if you are ever in an uncomfortable situation while online. Exit the program, log off or turn off the computer, and notify your Internet Service Provider or local law enforcement.

REPORT, to law enforcement authorities, any suspicious or dangerous contact that makes you uncomfortable.