Pornography is a reality of cyberspace which is not likely to go away and therefore it must be understood and mitigated by our teens.

Cyberspace Safety
“The Mind of the Pornographer and How to Block It”
What is Pornography?

**Definition:**
“The (explicit?) portrayal of sexual subject matter for the purposes of sexual arousal and erotic satisfaction.”

**Connotation:**
We communicate more through the ideas and feelings the recipient experiences...

**Context**

Neo-noir film poster or image on an S&M website?

**Meaning**

This 3rd Millennium BC fertility idol may mean something completely different to a 12 year old.
“Pornography is Bad!”

Control won’t cut it...

- The average age at which a child first sees porn is 11.
- 34% of Internet users have experienced unwanted exposure (pop-up ads, misdirected links, e-mails).
- 12% of the websites on the Internet are pornographic.

...We need a more meaningful tool.
We need **education**!
“Why” Pornography is Bad...

Pornography is **DANGEROUS**:

• Pornography can derail and warp normal human intimacy ("Frustrates the sanctity of marriage").

• Through the **objectification** of other people (women especially) Pornography can **isolate** a person from normal social interaction and cripple social skills.

• Pornography builds an **unrealistic** understanding of sexuality and intimacy.

• Excessive pornographic use correlates to **low self esteem** and poor self-image.

• The **addictive** quality of pornography puts a user at risk of becoming a slave to ever-increasing needs, secrecy, and isolation.
Pornography has long been with us...

The good news:
We are not working without context. We know a lot about the dangers and we are learning more rapidly.

The bad news:
Pornography is huge; it is mainstream; and it isn’t going anywhere soon.

- 12% of Websites are pornographic (24,644,000+)
- 8% of e-mails are pornographic (2.5 billion each day)
- 25% of search engine requests are porn-related (68 million each day)
- 35% of Internet downloads are pornographic
What is different today?

• **Ease of Access.**
  How many Internet devices are in the audience?

• **Complexity of the tools.**
  Exasperated by a generational, technical divide.

• **Globalization.**
  Local activism is mute on the Internet.
“The Mind of the Pornographer” ...is skewed.

- NB: Legal businesses and legal users vs. criminals and victims
- The way they see it:
  - They do not believe they are doing anything wrong
  - They do not share your morality
  - Their point of view is legally protected
  - They are impassioned by the subject itself
  - They are emboldened by the belief that they are standing up for “freedom”
  - They are enabled by making money

...There is a market for it.
...And we are that market!

- Every Second:
  - $3,000+ spent on porn
  - 28,000+ Internet users are viewing porn
- 40 Million Americans are “regular visitors” to porn sites
- 1 in 3 porn viewers are women
- 70% of 18-24 year old men visit porn sites in a typical month
- Internet Porn Industry:
  - $2.8 billion (USA)
  - $4.9 billion (worldwide)
- 20% of men admit to watching porn at work
  - 13% of women do
How Teens Access the Internet

Multiple locations and devices.
• 93% of teens between the ages of 12 to 17 access the Internet from more than one location.
• Xbox, phones, iPod text, VoIP, Home Appliances...

Friends let friends have access.
• How much “control” do you really have?

Kids are often more technically savvy than the adults.
• How many in the audience have had a youth help?
• Plug one hole and they will find another...
“...and How to Block It.”
There is no Silver Bullet

Legal Regulation
• Balance against personal freedoms
• International limitations

Rules/Guidelines
• Conscious limits
  • Time
  • Location
  • Parental Audit

Filtering
• The best programs for stopping porn are the worst at distinguishing harmful material from informational content. Commonly blocked: Sex education, Civil rights issues, Drug abuse prevention, Health/socially transmitted diseases, Unexpected terms like “Hilton” or “Napoleon”.
“...and How to Block It.”
Teach them to see!

Education
• Teach them **WHY** it is **DANGEROUS**.
  Takes a lot of time!
• Do not reveal **personal information**.
• Comfortable Communication
• Understand **before** it happens – have a plan!
• Don’t become a **victim of Fear!**

“At some point, you have to trust the filter you put between their ears. ...What you need to do is not cover your kids' eyes but teach them to see. Install that software in their heads.”

**Aftab Huang**
Author of *The Parent's Guide to Protecting Your Children in Cyberspace*