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Parenting and the Internet

The Guide for Raising Your Child to Be Smarter and Safer Online

Todd Curtis

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Parenting and the Internet
The Guide for Raising Your Child to Be Smarter and Safer Online

Printed in the United States of America.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Todd Curtis is a parent and a published author who more than a decade ago created the Web's most popular airline safety site, AirSafe.com. He holds a PhD in aviation risk assessment from the Union Institute, as well as engineering degrees from MIT, the University of Texas, and Princeton. His aviation safety work has been featured by numerous news organizations, including the New York Times, and he has appeared on CNN, CBS, Fox News, Discovery Channel, the BBC, and National Public Radio. With this book, he combines his insights as a father, engineering risk assessment expert, and online pioneer to create an easy-to-use guide for managing and enhancing a child's online experience. Previously, he has published a number of technical papers in the areas of airline safety and aviation risk assessment and authored the 2000 book *Understanding Aviation Safety Data*.

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FREE SOFTWARE

In This Appendix
- Web Browsers
- Business and Office Software
- Communications Software
- Security-related Software
- Media Software
- Email Programs
- Hard Drive Search Software
- Geography Reference Software

All the software applications in this section have one thing in common—all of them can be used for free. The Microsoft-related software products in this appendix are either included with the Windows XP or Windows Vista operating system, or they can be downloaded from the Microsoft web site. The other programs featured here can be found at the URLs that are included with the descriptions.

RISKS OF FROM SOFTWARE

Any time that you add software to your computer, you want to avoid problems either with the software or with your computer, especially from viruses, spyware, and

other malicious software. While it is possible that the free software that you download could have problems, you can avoid many potential issues by taking the following precautions:

- **Look for reviews of the software**: Two excellent resources for finding reviews of free software are Sourceforge.net at http://sourceforge.net and Download.com at http://www.download.com. You can also find comparisons with similar software and find out additional information such as how frequently a program has been updated or downloaded.
- **Trust your instincts**: If there is anything about a program or the maker of the program that arouse your suspicions, don't download the software.
- **Use trusted software makers**: Many free programs available online were created by established software companies or nonprofit organizations. Many of these software makers also provide updates, documentation, and technical support.

WARNING: If your computer is infected with spyware, adware, or other malicious software, it may direct you to somewhere other than the links listed below. If this happens, do not download any software, or take any other actions on that site. If you have an antivirus or antispyware program on your computer, use it to check your computer for malicious software. If you suspect that your computer is infected, you can also visit these sites using a computer that is not infected.

WEB BROWSERS

**Internet Explorer—
Included in Windows XP and Windows Vista**
This browser is the most widely used; most web sites are compatible with it. For more information, visit the Internet Explorer site at http://www.microsoft.com/windows/ie/.

Firefox—http://www.mozilla.com/firefox/
This is the second most popular browser behind Internet Explorer. It is designed to aggressively block viruses, spyware, and popup ads. More features that can be added to the browser by using free downloads available on the Firefox site.

BUSINESS AND OFFICE SOFTWARE

Notepad—Included in Windows XP and Windows Vista
This text editor has no spell checker or other advanced features common to most word processing programs. This program can be accessed at **Start> All Programs> Accessories> Notepad**.

WordPad—Included in Windows XP and Windows Vista
This is a basic word processor that allows users to format text and graphics, but has no spell checker or other advanced word processing features. This program can be accessed at **Start>All Programs> Accessories> WordPad**.

OpenOffice.org—http://www.openoffice.org
This office application suite includes a word processor, database manager, and presentation manager. These programs can read and work with files from a number of similar programs.

Adobe Reader—http://www.adobe.com/downloads/
This software can be used to view, print, and search PDF files. Many of the supplemental documents associated with this book are available in PDF format at http://forms.speedbrake.com.

COMMUNICATIONS SOFTWARE

Skype—http://www.skype.com
This software is primarily designed for voice communication, but it also allows text-based instant messaging as well as a video connection with other Skype users.

Windows Live Messenger—
http://get.live.com/messenger/overview/
This successor to MSN Messenger allows multiple types of communication, including instant messaging, sending and receiving files, as well as voice and video chat. Also, users of Windows Live Messenger communicate with Yahoo! Instant Messenger users.

AOL Instant Messenger—http://www.aim.com
This IM program offers text based instant messaging as well as voice and video chat.

Yahoo! Instant Messenger—http://messenger.yahoo.com
This software allows text-based instant messaging, voice chat, and the ability to share files of up to one gigabyte with other users. Yahoo! Instant Messenger users can also communicate with users of Windows Live Messenger.

SECURITY-RELATED SOFTWARE

AVG Antivirus—http://www.grisoft.com
This antivirus software provides real-time antivirus protection for files and emails.

Zone Alarm—http://www.zonelabs.com
This basic firewall identifies and blocks hackers and malicious software from invading your computer.

Ad-Aware SE Personal—
http://www.lavasoft.com/software/adaware/
This antispyware product provides basic protection against spyware and helps to protect your private data.

Comodo Firewall—
http://www.personalfirewall.comodo.com
This firewall program allows the user to control what programs can have Internet access from your computer.

Comodo i-Vault—
http://www.comodogroup.com/products/i-vault/
This automated password manager can also generate complex passwords that can enhance your security.

McAfee Site Advisor—http://www.siteadvisor.com
This plug-in for Internet Explorer and Firefox evaluates web sites for dangerous downloads and other problems.

Microsoft Malicious Software Removal Tool—
http://www.microsoft.com/security/malwareremove/
This software scans computers running the Windows XP or Windows 2000 operating systems for malicious software.

Windows Defender—http://www.windowsdefender.com
This Microsoft program helps protect your computer against popups, slow performance, and security threats caused by spyware and other malicious or unwanted software. It also recommends actions a user can take when spyware programs are detected.

MEDIA SOFTWARE

iTunes—http:/www.apple.com/itunes/download/
This media player and organizer allows you to play and manage video and audio files from several formats. It can also be used to download podcasts or to create audio CDs from material in your media collection. This application also has parental control options.

Audacity—http://audacity.sourceforge.net
This audio recording and editing software package can be used to produce podcasts or to edit one or more sources of audio information. You can also export the finished files in different audio formats, including MP3.

Picasa—http://picasa.google.com
This photo organizer program allows you to edit, manage, and share the pictures and other graphics files on your computer. It can automatically locate and organize all the graphics files on your hard drive, upload visual content from external media like a digital camera or a flash drive, or save your pictures on to a CD-ROM.

QuickTime Player—
http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/
This digital media player can handle the audio and video formats used for Apple personal computers.

Real Player—http://www.real.com
This digital media player can play audio and graphics files associated with both Apple personal computers and computers that use the Windows operating system. It can act as a CD or DVD player, organize media files, and create CDs from your audio files.

Windows Media Player—
Included in Windows XP and Windows Vista
This digital media player is capable of playing several types of audio and video files, and displaying still images. You can also use this program to organize media files and create audio CDs.

Windows Movie Maker—
Included in Windows XP and Windows Vista
This video editing program is included with Windows XP Service Pack 2. and with Windows Vista. The program accepts audio and video input from several formats, and the output can be played on the Windows Media Player.

EMAIL PROGRAMS

Eurdora—http://www.eudora.com/download/
The free version of this email program includes all of the basics needed to send and receive email.

Outlook Express—Included in Internet Explorer
This program has all the basic functions of an email client program, including an address book and newsgroup access. It is also possible to create rules that can route incoming email into different folders. More information and online support is available at http://www.microsoft.com/windows/oe/.

Thunderbird—http://www.mozilla.com/thunderbird/
This email client program is from the same organization that developed the Firefox browser. Users can import existing email accounts and messages into this program. Thunderbird allows users to search messages, check the spelling of outgoing emails, and filter incoming messages.

HARD DRIVE SEARCH SOFTWARE

Google Desktop—http://desktop.google.com
This program allows you to perform searches your computer's hard drive in the same way that you do online searches with the Google search engine. It can find IM chats, image files, video files, audio files, spreadsheets, document files, PDF files, emails, and recently visited web pages. Unlike Google searches on the Web, no advertising appears with your search results.

Windows Desktop Search—http://toolbar.live.com
This search program from Microsoft allows you to find email messages, documents, and many other file types located on your hard drive.

GEOGRAPHY REFERENCE SOFTWARE

Google Earth—http://earth.google.com
This mapping software combines satellite imagery, maps, and Google search technology to allow you to view large areas of the Earth. Some areas such as large US cities have particularly detailed information.

Google SketchUp—http://sketchup.google.com
This modeling program allows you to create three-dimensional models of buildings, furniture, and other objects. The program also allows you to add a three-dimensional model of structures to the two-dimensional overhead photos used in Google Earth.

APPENDIX 2

ONLINE RESOURCES

In This Appendix

- Internet Safety and Security
- Online Parenting Resources
- Search Engines and Directories
- Copyright and Intellectual Property
- Email Accounts
- Social Networking Resources
- Computer and Internet Resources
- Dictionary and Thesaurus Resources
- Book and Library Resources
- Encyclopedias and General References
- World Geography and Politics Resources
- Financial Information Resources
- News and Weather Resources
- Homework and Study Resources
- Art and Museum Resources
- Writing and Literature Resources
- Earth and Space Resources
- Math and Science Resources
- Medical and Health Resources
- Education and Research Resources
- Audio and Video Entertainment
- Photo Sharing Resources

INTERNET SAFETY AND SECURITY

SafeKids.com—http://www.safekids.com
A family-oriented guide to making the Internet fun, safe, and productive. Contains links to informational sites and to articles on computer and Internet safety and security.

CyberTipLine—http://www.cybertipline.com
An online service that allows users to report cases of child sexual exploitation including child pornography, solicitation of children for sex acts, child molestation, and unsolicited obscene material sent to a child. Reports can be made by phone at 1-800-843-5678.

CyberWise.ca—http://cyberwise.ca
This site provides resources, information, and links for kids and teens on how to use the Internet, as well as information on how to keep children safe online.

Komando Kids—http://www.komando.com/kids/
This part of radio talk show host Kim Komando's web site provides links to many of her Internet-related articles.

US Federal Trade Commission—http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft/
This is a comprehensive resource for understanding identity theft, including how you can detect and deter such crimes, and specific actions to perform if you are a victim.

GetNetWise—http://www.getnetwise.org
This site, which is sponsored by the the Internet industry and by various public interest organizations, provides resources and advice for avoiding and minimizing Internet-related risks.

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children—http://www.missingkids.com
The mission of this nonprofit organization is to help prevent child abduction and sexual exploitation; help find missing children; and assist victims of child abduction and sexual exploitation.

Net Family News—http://netfamilynews.org
This nonprofit organization provides a forum for technology and media issues that concern children. Includes a weekly newsletter and other resources.

OnGuardOnline.gov—http://www.onguardonline.gov
This US Federal Trade Commission site provides advice on how to identify and avoid fraudulent and deceptive practices, and tips on protecting both your personal information and your computer from online threats.

McAfee Free Security Services—http://us.mcafee.com/root/catalog.asp?catid=free
This site offers a free online virus scan that will provide a list of any viruses present on your computer. Another online service evaluates the security of your wireless network.

Microsoft Windows Live OneCare—http://safety.live.com
This site provides several different kinds of online tools that can find and remove viruses and other malicious software.

NetSmartz—http://www.netsmartz.org
Operated by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, this site provides resources for understanding how to stay safer online.

Spyware Warrior—http://www.spywarewarrior.com
Links to spyware-related resources and online forums, as well as comparisons of antispyware products.

StaySafe.org—http://www.staysafe.org
This educational site helps consumers understand how to manage a variety of online safety and security issues, and provides how-to advice for hardware and software.

Symantec Security Check—
http://security.symantec.com/ssc/
This site has three separate free online tests. The first tests your computer's vulnerability to online security risks and makes suggestions about how to make your computer more secure. The second detects viruses, and the third tracks the route taken by a potential attack.

Teenangels—http://www.teenangels.org
This site works with leading safety experts and with law enforcement organizations to train 13- to 18-year-old volunteers in all aspects of online safety, privacy, and security. These volunteers then work within their schools to promote online safety.

WiredSafety.org—http://www.wiredsafety.org
Staffed by hundreds of volunteers around the world, this site provides education, assistance, and awareness on all aspects of Internet-related crime and abuse, privacy, security, and responsible technology use.

ONLINE PARENTING RESOURCES

Childnet International—http://www.childnet-int.org
This nonprofit organization from the United Kingdom organizes a number of projects that provide useful information for both parents and children on how to use the Internet.

Chatdanger—http://www.chatdanger.com
This Childnet International site discusses the potential dangers of interactive online services such as chat, instant messaging, and online games, and also offers advice on how to engage in these activities more safely.

Kidsmart—http://www.kidsmart.org.uk
This Childnet International site provides children, parents, and teachers with information on making the Internet experience safer and more fun for children.

Sorted—http://www.childnet-int.org/sorted/
This Childnet International site provides advice on computer security issues and includes information about viruses, spyware, phishing, identity theft, and file sharing.

SuperKids—http://www.superkids.com
The site has reviews and ratings of educational software and links to online and offline educational tools.

Yahoo! Family Resource Center—http://family.yahoo.com
The site has advice for safe browsing and safe communication, as well as links to the Yahooligans! Web guide for kids.

SEARCH ENGINES AND DIRECTORIES

Ask.com—http://www.ask.com
This search engine allows users to pose search queries using questions as well as keywords and key phrases.

Ask for Kids—http://www.askforkids.com
This child friendly search site allows users to create a search request in the form of a question.

Open Directory Project—http://www.dmoz.com
Sites in this directory are screened by a team of volunteers. By selecting the *advanced* link on the home page, you can limit search results to material appropriate for children, teenagers, and mature teenagers.

Google—http://www.google.com
The most popular search engine on the Web, the site includes language translation and language specific searching. Users can change the level of filtering by selecting the *Preferences* link on the Google home page and choosing from three options: strict filtering of explicit text and images, moderate filtering of explicit images only, or no filtering at all.

KidsClick!—http://www.kidsclick.org
This directory is a project of the Ramapo Catskill Library System and is a guide to sites that are considered to be entertaining or enlightening for children.

Yahoo! Search—http://search.yahoo.com
This search engine allows users to filter search results. Users can set the level of filtering by selecting the *Advanced Search* link on the home page and then selecting the Yahoo! SafeSearch option that will filter out explicit, adult-oriented content from the search results.

Yahoo! Directory—http://dir.yahoo.com
This site has direct links to the major subject areas of the Yahoo! Directory, as well as a search function that allows you to search either the Web or the Yahoo! Directory. There are no links to filter controls on this home page, but if you set up a filtering option on the Yahoo! Search page, those settings will apply to the directory.

Yahooligans!—http://yahooligans.yahoo.com
This combination of search engine and directory will provide search results that are designed to be appropriate for children. This site also has links to numerous resources on how to safely use online resources.

Live Search—http://www.live.com
The successor to MSN search, this is the search engine used by the MSN.com site. This search engine allows users to filter search results.

**Search Engine Showdown—
http://searchengineshowdown.com**
This site has information about changes and innovations in search engine technology, as well as comparisons of the features of many of the most popular search engines.

COPYRIGHT AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Creative Commons—http://www.creativecommons.org
Provides extensive resources that explain the concept of a Creative Commons License, how it differs from a traditional copyright, and how material with such a license may be used.

Electronic Frontier Foundation—http://www.eff.org
This nonprofit organization supports privacy, intellectual, fair use, and free speech rights on behalf of the online community.

**Public Domain Music List—
http://www.pdinfo.com/list.htm**
A database of songs and musical works published before 1923 in the United States and that are now in the public domain.

Stanford University Library—http://fairuse.stanford.edu
This site has extensive resources on copyright issues, including the concepts of fair use of copyrighted material and material that is in the public domain.

Indiana University Copyright Management Center— http://copyright.iupui.edu
The site provides explanations of how to obtain permission to use copyrighted material, how to obtain copyright protection, and a checklist that helps to determine if a planned use of copyrighted material constitutes fair use.

United States Copyright Office—http://www.copyright.gov
Provides extensive information on copyright and fair use, and information on how to register a copyright.

United States Patent and Trademark Office— http://www.uspto.gov
Provides extensive information about trademarks and service marks, including instructions on how to register a trademark or service mark.

EMAIL ACCOUNTS

About.com—http://email.about.com
Extensive information about various email options, as well as comparisons of various free email services.

AIM Mail—http://www.aim.com
This email service from America Online can be used with AOL Instant Messenger. Users are allowed up to two gigabytes of storage.

Gmail—http://www.gmail.com
This service allows several gigabytes of storage. Messages can be forwarded to other accounts, and users can also download messages into an email program.

Windows Live Hotmail—http://hotmail.msn.com
Accounts on this Web-based email service from Microsoft have limited storage, but the limit increases once the account has been verified. Email and attachments of up to 10MB can be sent or received.

Yahoo! Mail—http://mail.yahoo.com
Mail can be sent and received online, and can also be forwarded to other accounts or download messages into an email program. Users can also retrieve mail from other accounts while within Yahoo! Mail.

SOCIAL NETWORKING RESOURCES

BlogSafety.com—http://www.blogsafety.com
The site has resources aimed at parents, teens, educators, advocates, and others who are interested in the impact of blogs, newsgroups, and other social aspects of the Web. Includes safe blogging tips for teens.

Parent's Guide to MySpace.com—http://www.parentsguidetomyspace.com
Provides detailed information on how parents can find their child's profile on MySpace.com, and how they can ensure their child does not place compromising information online and available to the general public.

COMPUTER AND INTERNET RESOURCES

Acronym Finder—http://www.acronymfinder.com
A searchable database of hundreds of thousands of acronyms and abbreviations related to computers, telecommunications, technology, and the military.

Ask Bob Rankin—http://www.askbobrankin.com
Programmer and computer technology author Bob Rankin provides easy-to-understand technical advice for a number of Internet-related subjects such as online multimedia, security, privacy, and search engines.

AskLeo!—http://ask-leo.com
A resource with links to hundreds of questions and answers about personal computers, with many detailed answers related to using Outlook Express.

ComputerHope.com—http://www.computerhope.com
A collection of free services that allows any user to access a database of extensive computer-related information, including hardware and software support for a variety of systems.

Download.com—http://www.download.com
The site has a wide range of free software for download, including security-related software. The site also has extensive tutorials and other resources that explain how to use software and how to use the Internet.

Internet101.org—http://www.internet101.org
A guide that explains the basics of the Internet in plain English. It provides a short history plus background information on several topics, including email, chat, viruses, searching, online shopping, and newsgroups.

Learn the Net.com—http://www.learnthenet.com
The site provides a basic understanding of how to set up and use a personal computer and how use various online services.

NetLingo—http://www.netlingo.com
Contains definitions to thousands of computer- and Internet-related terms. Also has explanations for many of the acronyms and slang terms that are often used in email, instant messaging, and other online communications.

Sourceforge.net—http://sourceforge.net
This site has a wide range of free software for download, and is one of the largest online resources for open source projects. These are software projects run by volunteers who work together to develop new software.

Urban Dictionary—http://www.urbandictionary.com
A user-generated dictionary of slang English words and phrases. There are approximately one million definitions, some of which are not suitable for children.

DICTIONARY AND THESAURUS RESOURCES

Dictionary.com—http://dictionary.reference.com
A multiple source dictionary search service that returns results from other online dictionaries.

Merriam—Webster Online—http://www.m-w.com
Provides links to both an online dictionary and thesaurus. For many definitions, you can also listen to the pronunciation of the word.

One Look Dictionary Search—http://www.onelook.com
A search engine that allows searches on more than five million words from more than 900 online dictionaries.

Webopedia—http://www.webopedia.com
An online dictionary and search engine for computer- and Internet-related terms.

BOOK AND LIBRARY RESOURCES

Answers.com—http://www.answers.com
This resource draws from reference works from traditional publishers and online reference sources.

Amazon.com—http://www.amazon.com
In addition to being an online bookstore, this site also has extensive information about books, including sample pages, reviews, and publisher information.

Bartleby.com—http://www.bartleby.com
A multiple reference site that has links to several sources for quotations, encyclopedias, and numerous books from the Harvard Classics series.

BUBL Information Service—http://bubl.ac.uk
This directory is hosted by Strathclide University in Scotland and uses the Dewey Decimal Classification system to catalog selected Internet resources. The directory covers all academic subject areas.

Federal Resources for Education Excellence— http://www.free.ed.gov
Site has links to more than 1,500 education resources created by numerous US federal agencies.

Google Book Search — http://books.google.com
This search engine allows a user to find books using the author's name, the book's title, or even by using words and phrases that may be in the book. Some books have their entire contents available online and others may only have limited content available. A user can also find links to local libraries that may have the book in their collections.

The Internet Public Library — http://www.ipl.org
This site from the University of Michigan School of Information provides library services to Internet users. Activities include finding, evaluating, and organizing information resources.

Library of Congress Online Catalog — http://catalog.loc.gov
This search engine allows a user to find books by author, title, subject, call number, or keyword. This site also has links to the Library's photographic and audio catalogs.

Library of Congress Ask a Librarian Service — http://www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/
This site shows users how to use email, regular mail, phone, or fax to ask questions of Libary of Congress reference librarians.

Library of Congress Virtual Reference Shelf — http://www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/virtualref.html
A directory with links to dozens of different online reference sources in areas such as abbreviations, almanacs, quotations, statistics, music, and literature.

The Online Books Page — http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu
This resource from the University of Pennsylvania Library contains a searchable database of thousands of books that can be viewed for free online.

Project Gutenberg—http://www.gutenberg.org
This resource contains a searchable database of more than 20,000 books that can be downloaded for free.

ENCYCLOPEDIAS AND GENERAL REFERENCES

Encarta—http://encarta.msn.com
A free online version of the Microsoft reference software. Site also links to a dictionary, thesaurus, and atlas.

**Encyclopedia Britannica Online—
http://www.britannica.com**
A search and directory site featuring *Encyclopedia Britannica.* The free online version offers a concise version of the material in the full encyclopedia.

The Free Dictionary—http://www.thefreedictionary.com
A multiple reference site that allows searches on specialized dictionaries for finance, computing, medicine, and law, as well as searches in the online *Colombia Encyclopedia*.

HowStuffWorks—http://www.howstuffworks.com
A source of unbiased, and easy-to-understand explanations of how things work. Areas covered include technology, social behaviors, and consumer products. The site also has consumer opinions and exclusive access to independent expert ratings and reviews.

Infoplease—http://www.infoplease.com
Searchable almanac, dictionary, atlas, and encyclopedia.

The Museum of Modern Art—http://www.moma.org
The site includes the museum's online collection of more than 5,000 items from several of the the museum's departments. The museum's audio programs are also available for download.

The Straight Dope—http://www.straightdope.com
A searchable database of the syndicated weekly question and answer column by Cecil Adams. The site has links to most of the columns from the past ten years and to selected columns going back to 1973.

The Urban Legends Reference Pages—http://www.snopes.com
This site is devoted to the study of contemporary lore, with an extensive collection of rumors, urban legends, and other claims that are researched and judged to be either true, false, or something in between.

US Government Manual—http://www.gpoaccess.gov/gmanual/
This is the official handbook of the federal government, and it provides information on the agencies in the legislative, judicial, and executive branches of government, as well as information on other agencies, and international organizations.

Virtual Reference Collection—http://libraries.mit.edu/help/virtualref.html
This part of the MIT Libraries site provides links to almanacs, information on corporations, data on associations, and other reference resources.

Wikipedia—http://www.wikipedia.org
This online encyclopedia is maintained by volunteers and contains entries on topics found in encyclopedias, as well as on topics typically found in almanacs and news publications. Entries may be added or removed at any time by volunteers, and may contain material that parents could find objectionable or offensive.

WORLD GEOGRAPHY AND POLITICS RESOURCES

**Congressional Research Service (CRS) Reports—
http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/**
This resource of the Federation of American Scientists provides a searchable database of publications from the Congressional Research Service. This congressional support agency does not make its publications directly available to the public online, but its collection provides access to many of the CRS reports that address national security, foreign policy, and related topics.

Google Maps—http://maps.google.com
This site provides detailed street maps for the area around a given address, can provide detailed travel directions, and can also show either satellite photos or satellite photos with an overlay of a street map.

**Library of Congress Portals to the World—
http://www.loc.gov/rr/international/portals.html**
Contains selective links providing authoritative, in-depth information about the nations and other areas of the world. They are arranged by country or area with the links for each sorted into a wide range of broad categories.

**Library of Congress Research Guides and Database—
http://www.loc.gov/rr/international/spguides.html**
Links to a number of specialized resources, including more than 100 online editions of the Country Study series. Each work in this series has a description and analysis of the historical setting and the social, economic, political, and national security systems and institutions of a country.

The National Geographic Society—
http://nationalgeographic.com
This site has several geography resources, including an online atlas and printable maps. It also has information about the National Geographic Bee, an academic competition for fourth to eighth grade students.

The Nuclear Information Project—
http://www.nukestrat.com
The Nuclear Information Project provides the public with access to declassified documents and analysis about nuclear weapons policy and operations, including the likely location of the nuclear warheads in the arsenal of the United States.

Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection—
http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/
A collection of mostly public domain maps from the University of Texas Libraries. Includes historical and contemporary maps covering the entire world.

TopoZone—http://www.topozone.com
Online topographic maps covering the United States.

The World Factbook—
https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/
This site is based on the reference book of the same name that is published by the US Central Intelligence Agency. The site has factual information on the political and social situations of the world's nations. Other information includes maps, natural resources, legal systems, political parties, and mortality rates. All information in the book or on the web site, except for the official seal of the CIA, is in the public domain.

WorldStatesmen.org—http://www.worldstatesmen.org
This site is a frequently updated encyclopedia of all the leaders of nations and territories. International organizations and recent religious leaders are listed separately. This site provides detailed chronologies, flags, national anthems, maps and indexes.

Chiefs of State of Foreign Governments— https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/chiefs/
The Central Intelligence Agency publishes and updates the online directory of *Chiefs of State and Cabinet Members of Foreign Governments* weekly. The directory is intended to be used primarily as a reference aid and includes data on most of the governments of the world.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION RESOURCES

EDGAR—http://www.sec.gov/edgar.shtml
The Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis, and Retrieval (EDGAR) system is a database from the US Securities and Exchange Commission that contains most of the forms and reports of every publicly traded US company.

Investopedia.com—http://www.investopedia.com
Basic information about the world of publicly traded investments, as well as a source of financial information tools such as a dictionary of financial and investing terms and tutorials on stocks, stock markets, and mutual funds.

Rich Kid Smart Kid—http://richkidsmartkid.com
Created by the Foundation for Financial Literacy, this site is dedicated to increasing the financial literacy of children. There are extensive resources for children, including online financial education games. There are also grade-specific activities that educators can use to understand the basics of finance and entrepreneurship.

Teen Startups—http://www.teenstartups.com
This site, which is part of Entrepreneur.com, has a number of how-to guides for starting a business, and stories of teens and young adults who have created successful businesses.

Teen Business Link—http://www.sba.gov/teens/
Created by the US Small Business Administration, this site offers information on the fundamentals of starting and running a small business.

NEWS AND WEATHER RESOURCES

British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)—http://news.bbc.co.uk
The online version of one of the British television and radio news organizations has links to news specific to several major regions of the world, as well news in areas such as science, technology, health, and entertainment.

Cable News Network (CNN)—http://www.cnn.com
The online version of the 24-hour television news network has several sections covering news, politics, sports weather, and entertainment.

Google News—http://news.google.com
Searchable and continuously updated resource for news from more than 4,500 news sources. Has sections covering news, business, science, entertainment, health, and sports.

UM Weather—http://cirrus.sprl.umich.edu/wxnet/
This University of Michigan site provides access to thousands of forecasts, images, software, and maps.

Unisys Weather—http://weather.unisys.com
This site has an extensive selection of satellite and graphical weather information. Although intended for meteorologists, there are ample detailed explanations for the novice user.

**Vaisala Lightning Explorer—
http://thunderstorm.vaisala.com**
Visual display of lightning activity across the United States.

Weather Underground—http://www.wunderground.com
This comprehensive weather site has extensive resources for regions outside of North America.

The Weather Channel—http://www.weather.com
Associated with the cable network of the same name, this site features current conditions and forecasts for more than 77,000 locations worldwide.

**Yahoo! News and Media Directory—
http://dir.yahoo.com/News_and_Media/**
This comprehensive media directory contains thousands of links to web sites of newspapers, magazines, television stations, and many other types of media outlets.

HOMEWORK AND STUDY RESOURCES

AOL@School—http://www.aolatschool.com
A directory of educational resources for kindergarten through high school, with sections for students and teachers.

Awesome Library—http://www.awesomelibrary.org
A directory of more than 30,000 educational resources for kindergarten through high school with different sections aimed at children, parents, and teachers.

How-To-Study.com—http://www.how-to-study.com
A study skills resource site with free advice on study skills, study strategies, and study tips in areas such as test taking, reading comprehension, and writing techniques.

**Infoplease Homework Center—
http://www.infoplease.com/homework/**
Drawing on the resources of the Infoplease.com site, this section of that site serves as a directory to resources for the subject areas of writing, geography, history, language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. It also includes links for research and study skills.

WRITING AND LITERATURE RESOURCES

Bob's Byway—http://www.poeticbyway.com
A poetry resource site that includes a glossary of poetic terms, plus examples of poetic terms from the works of prominent poets, and tips for the enjoyment of poetry.

**The Columbia Guide to Online Style—
http://www.columbia.edu/cu/cup/cgos2006/basic.html**
An online guide for creating formal humanities style and scientific style citations for material taken from online sources such as web sites, blogs, audio files, video files, graphic files, email, databases, and other online content.

**The Complete Works of William Shakespeare—
http://www-tech.mit.edu/Shakespeare/works.html**
This site from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is one of the earlier Web resources featuring the complete works of Shakespeare.

Dr. Grammar—http://www.drgrammar.org/faqs/
This resource from the University of Northern Iowa answers questions about the proper use of words, punctuation, and grammar.

Encyclopedia Mythica—http://www.pantheon.org
An online encyclopedia of mythology, folklore, and religion that is divided by continent, with further subdivisions to make searching easier. The site also has hundreds of images containing many kinds of deities, heroes, and strange creatures of every description.

Mr. William Shakespeare and the Internet— http://shakespeare.palomar.edu
This resource from Palomar College is a comprehensive annotated guide to the scholarly Shakespeare resources available on Internet.

RhymeZone—http://www.rhymezone.com
A search engine for rhymes where the user enters a word or phrase and the site provides suggested rhyming words, as well as synonyms, definitions, and other information.

The Poetry Archive—http://www.poetryarchive.org
This site contains a collection of recordings of poets reading their own work, with sections of the site for students, teachers, and children.

Punctuation Made Simple— http://lilt.ilstu.edu/golson/punctuation/
This grammar resource from Illinois State University provides visitors with a general idea of how to use colons, semicolons, commas, dashes, and apostrophes.

**Purdue University Online Writing Lab—
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/**
This writing resource site has tutorials on grammar, sentence structure, English for non-native writers of English, creative writing, technical writing, and citation styles.

**University of Wisconsin Writing Center—
http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/**
A concise resource on basic writing, including the stages of the writing process, advice on grammar and punctuation, and tips on improving writing style.

Vocabulary University—http://www.vocabulary.com
Aimed at students from the fourth grade through high school, this site contains interactive word puzzles that help a student acquire and retain vocabulary. Each session has three levels of difficulty. Each level has three puzzles with 12 words each (36 words in a session) and contains seven additional activities and exercises that help develop vocabulary.

EARTH AND SPACE RESOURCES

Earthquake Hazards Program—http://earthquake.usgs.gov
Continuously updated data on earthquakes in the US that are at least magnitude 2.5 and earthquakes elsewhere in the world that are of magnitude 4.0 and above.

Heavens-Above.com—http://www.heavens-above.com
Provides detailed information about overflights of satellites that are visible to the naked eye, including the International Space Station and Space Shuttle.

**University of Alaska Aurora Forecasts—
http://www.gedds.alaska.edu/AuroraForecast/**
This site of the University of Alaska's Geophysical Institute provides short-term and long-term forecasts for observing the aurora borealis.

MATH AND SCIENCE RESOURCES

**Are You Better than Average?—
http://www.airsafe.com/analyze/average.htm**
Using only a pair of dice, this game demonstrates three basic priciples of applied math: averages, probability, and modeling.

Ask Dr. Math—http://mathforum.org/dr.math/
This part of the Math Forum site at Drexel University is a question-and-answer service for math students and their teachers from kindergarten to high school.

Exploratorium—http://www.exploratorium.edu
This science museum site contains instructions for more than 500 science experiments, podcasts, and interactive exhibits.

**Internet Mathematics Library—
http://mathforum.org/library/**
This site from Drexel University has a catalog of mathematics and mathematics education web sites. Subjects covered include basic math, number theory, algebra, calculus, math history, probability, statistics, operations research, and mathematical applications in engineering, science, and other fields.

Los Alamos National Laboratory Periodic Table of the Elements—http://periodic.lanl.gov
This site, intended as a resource for students from grade school to high school, has historical and scientific information about each element, as well as periodic tables that can be downloaded as PDF or Microsoft Word files. The entire site can also be downloaded as a PDF file.

Math2.org—http://www.math2.org
A collection of tables, graphical models, formulas, and other mathematical information for trigonometry and calculus.

WebElements—http://www.webelements.com
Created by Dr. Mark Winter of the University of Sheffield in the United Kingdom, this site has extensive information on the properties and atomic structure of the elements in periodic table.

Webmath—http://www.webmath.com
This site features many categories of mathematics where a user can find guidance. Once in the general category of interest, a visitor can use a math fill-in-the-blank forms to type in a math problem of interest. The output may be either the answer or guidance to find an answer.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH RESOURCES

**MedTerms Medical Dictionary—
http://www.medterms.com**
This online medical dictionary is the medical reference for MedicineNet.com, containing explanations of more than 16,000 medical terms.

**Merck Manual of Medical Information—
http://www.merck.com/mmhe/**
This searchable site explains disorders, their symptoms, how they are diagnosed, how they might be prevented, and how they can be treated.

Traveler's Health—http://www.cdc.gov/travel/
This site for the US Centers for Disease Control has specific information about world travel health related risks, including specific warnings of disease outbreaks.

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH RESOURCES

MIT OpenCourseWare—http://ocw.mit.edu
This site from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology makes MIT course materials that are used in the teaching of almost all undergraduate and graduate subjects freely available online for any educator, student, or self-motivated learner anywhere in the world.

Nobelprize.org—http://www.nobelprize.org
This official web site of the Nobel Foundation includes information on all prize winners as well as a collection of educational games.

UTOPIA—http://utopia.utexas.edu
This directory provides free public access to the knowledge, research, and information from the libraries, museums, galleries and laboratories of the University of Texas at Austin. There are also sections designed for students and educators from elementary school through high school.

AUDIO AND VIDEO ENTERTAINMENT

AOL Video — http://video.aol.com
Thousands of videos are available for viewing, and registered users can upload videos. Only a portion of the videos on this site are free. Materials containing illegal, pornographic or harmful material are not allowed. A Family Filter option is also available.

FreshPodcasts.com — http://www.freshpodcasts.com
Links to recent podcasts, podcasting resources, and related software tools.

Internet Movie Database — http://www.imdb.com
This site contains a database of detailed information about more than 350,000 movies and television shows from around the world. Production data provided includes titles, alternative titles, actors, directors, producers, writers, filming location, and country of origin.

MusicUnited.org — http://www.musicunited.org
This coalition of music industry organizations and music artist organizations provides sources where a user can legally buy music online, as well as general guidelines on how to avoid violating the rights of copyright holders.

The Oracle of Bacon — http://www.oracleofbacon.org
Based on information from the Internet Movie Database, this University of Virginia site allows users to play the *Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon* game where the objective is to see how closely linked an actor or actress is to a movie role played by the actor Kevin Bacon.

Google Video—http://video.google.com

Tens of thousands of videos are available for viewing, and registered users can upload their own videos. Sexually explicit material, graphic violence, hateful content, or other material inappropriate for young viewers is not allowed on Google Video. Because of limited pre-screening, such material may be uploaded, but is usually not accessible for long.

Yahoo! Video—http://video.yahoo.com

Using Yahoo! Search, users can view videos that were uploaded to Yahoo!, or will be linked to videos elsewhere on the Web. Although adult materials are not allowed to be uploaded, you can link to adult content from outside of Yahoo! However, you have the option of setting up the video search feature to filter adult material.

YouTube—http://youtube.com

Millions of videos are available for viewing, and users can upload their own video creations as well. Users who upload videos can choose to either let the general public see the videos, or they can restrict access. YouTube.com's policy states that children under the age of 13 are not allowed on the site, and children from 13 to 17 can visit only with their parents' permission. Material meant for adults is available on the site, and can only be accessed only after registering as a user.

PHOTO SHARING RESOURCES

Flickr—http://www.flickr.com

This site allows you to upload photos from the Web, by email, from home computers, or from mobile devices. You must have a Yahoo! account to use the service.

Picasa Web Albums—http://picasaweb.google.com

This site, used in conjunction with the Picasa photo organizer listed in appendix 1, allows you to share photos online.

Additional Resources

Dr. Todd Curtis has also created a number of other online resources, including the award winning airline safety web site AirSafe.com, and its companion site AirSafeNews.com:

Special Offers: If you want to receive special offers from Dr. Curtis, including free advice on dealing with airline safety and other free offers, please subscribe to the AirSafeNews.com mailing list.

Dr. Todd Curtis has also created a number of other online resources:

Airline Safety: AirSafe.com, and AirSafeNews.com

Investing Advice: MoneyBahn.com

Online marketing: AirSafe-Media.com

Keep in touch with Dr. Curtis:

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