



Case Study: Security and Avoiding P2P



Directions

Form teams of three to four students each. Read the following case study scenario. Then complete the assignment that follows with your team. Be prepared to share your results with the class.

Scenario

Matt and George are classmates. They have recently started using a peer-to-peer (P2P) program with several friends from another school to share their favorite music files and play video games. Matt doesn't know all of the guys from the other school very well, but his friend George does, so he thinks they are probably reliable.

Matt's parents know he uses the P2P program and they have strict rules about using it. His parents have stressed that he must not download any music from illegal websites.

Unfortunately, Matt didn't realize that while connected to a P2P program, his computer's security is exposed not only by his actions, but also by the actions of people on computers to which he's connected.

When one of the guys at the other school tried to download a lot of "free" music from an illegal website, he instead received a virus. This virus has now spread to all the other guys' computers through the P2P platform.

Assignment

Create a list of checkpoints to evaluate the good and bad choices made by Matt and George while using a peer-to-peer sharing program.

1. Using any search engine, explore websites that discuss this topic.
2. Using presentation software, summarize the information you have learned and create a guide of safety tips that Matt and George should use to stay secure online. Be sure to include a list of the risks involved in using peer-to-peer programs.
3. Be prepared to share your Safety Tips guide with the class.