PROTECTING YOUR ONLINE PRESENCE

- The relationship between privacy and technology is complicated. Tech companies have faced public scrutiny in recent years for the ways they collect, share, and sell user data.
- Solicitations are common online. Some solicitations, such as job postings or filling out "quizzes," may track and store the information that users provide.
- Terms and conditions for many websites or applications (usually referred to as apps) are complicated and lengthy, therefore users often consent to these without a complete understanding of what they contain. The terms and conditions related to privacy may also change after an update and users may not be notified about the changes.
- Understanding ways to secure your identity online serves as a foundation to keeping yourself safe in other settings as well.
- Beyond data collected by apps, students may also face situations in which their private and sensitive images or records have been shared with a wider audience than intended, thus violating trust. For instance, individuals may share private photographs or text messages with others. In addition, if a user's social media is public, perpetrators can use their name, images, and other information to create fake profiles. These incidents often come with shame and ridicule, so approach the topic carefully and try to provide resources to any students who have experiences with such issues.

LOGO

TRAFFICK STOP

Learning Objectives
1. Demonstrate proficiency in safe online practices.
2. Evaluate privacy settings of two social media apps.

Warm-up: Choose an icebreaker or activity to help students get to know each other better.

Guided Discussion
Use these questions to generate a discussion among group members.
- Do you think it is fair for colleges or employers to consider someone's online presence? Why or why not?
- Do you know what information is available about you online?
- Do you feel like you are able to understand terms and conditions enough to give meaningful consent when you click accept?
- Do you feel like these agreements are written in a way to confuse or mislead you? Why is it important to understand what you agree to?
- How can you make sure other things you might not want online aren't shared without your consent? What can you do if something personal has been shared publicly?

Learning in Action
Using their phones, tablets, or other devices, ask students to look at something they've posted to one of their social media accounts.

Think about what a stranger may be able to find out about them based upon what was posted – could they find:
- Where you live?
- Where your friends live?
- Your school?
- What extracurricular activities you participate in?
- Your friends or family members?
- Information about your relationships with family member or friends?

Strangers or acquaintances might be able to use information they find about you online to gain your trust.

Connecting the Dots
- People can access much of the information you put online, regardless of whether you think it is private. This information can be used by strangers or acquaintances to form friendships and other relationships, and not everyone has good intentions.
- By establishing good habits regarding consent and knowing that you can't control how information is used after it has been posted, you can be more intentional when posting information online.
- Perpetrators can use data, images, and other information gathered online to victimize individuals both online and/or in person (e.g., using geotags to find a person's home location).

Reflect & Review
Have students respond to one or all of the following prompts (time-permitting):
- What is one thing you can do to protect your online presence and be a little bit safer online?
- What is one thing you wish your peers understood about protecting their online presence?
- What is one thing you learned about "providing consent" in the context of social media?
  Invite students to share their answers with the group.

Tips for Adapting to Online Delivery
- See "Online Delivery Tip Sheet" in the Facilitator Toolkit for more information about adapting your meeting plan to an online platform.

Facilitator Notes   **Upcoming Meeting Dates: __/__/__**

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References
CyberSWAT
Instagram Help Center. "Staying Safe."
Love146
Netsmartz
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2020*
Stop Sextortion