SAFE INTERNET LEAGUE ANNUAL REPORT 2012



About us



Combatting negative content



Creating positive online content



Expert work



Public & work



International work



outlook and plans 2013







Denis Davydov, Safe Internet League CEO:

The answer is quite simple. For parents there can be only one criterion: can they let their children access the Internet by themselves? Right now, doing so, unfortunately, is like letting them swim in a pool full of sharks. Kids either learn how to swim really quickly or get eaten. Instead of running experiments we should better do everything to keep the little Internet users safe.





INTRODUCTION BY MR DAVYDOV



Denis Davydov, Safe Internet League CEO:

The last eighteen months saw us making good progress in dealing with dangerous content.

The League's Cyberguard volunteers have uncovered the largest paedophile ring in our country's history, its organizers and active members already arrested and expecting criminal charges.

However, a significant portion of Internet users still have a very vague idea of Internet threats. Consistent and methodical steps must be taken to improve their media literacy, to bring up a generation of responsible Internet users with a culture of civil social media interaction/

Not an easy task, but so much is clear: to achieve it one must start right at school. Working together with the expert and business communities we must engage with the authorities to suggest optimal educational techniques.

The League's aims are increasing media literacy and developing optimal educational techniques and Internet use guidelines for both children and adults.

In 2012 the League focused its efforts on promoting simple but effective guidelines for safe Internet usage for both children and adults, trying to make them really accessible.

We provided efficient yet 100% free Internet threat protection tools for every Russian family to use. We are going to further increase our support of initiatives by young software developers, public organizations, and regional authorities in bringing about a safe Internet. Making the Internet safe means making it more free. By setting up the League we demonstrated that a common goal can bring together people from different, even rival businesses, proved the issue leaves no one unconcerned.





OUR AIMS AND GOALS

The Safe Internet League is the largest and most reputable organization fighting dangerous Web content in Russia.

The League is taking concrete steps to prevent and uncover dangerous content, aiding the law enforcement bodies and helping enhance crime detection rates in that sphere.

Our aim:

To eradicate dangerous Web content by making the professional community and industry players adopt self-regulation to avoid censorship.

Our goals:

- · To fight dangerous Web content;
- To unite the professional community and industry players to work out self-regulation mechanisms in order to avoid top-down regulation and Internet censorship;
- To provide genuine help to children and teenagers victimized by the spread of dangerous Internet content;
- · To participate in policymaking.





LINES OF ACTIVITY



Fighting dangerous content

Assembling the Cyberguard force (currently numbering 20 000 volunteers).

The first ten months of 2012 saw 319 instances of production and distribution of pornography uncovered by officers of the Russian Interior Ministry's "K" Department, helped by Cyberguard volunteers, with 26 207 reports of child pornography processed in the first ten months, and 10 679 web sites having dangerous content deleted.



Supporting positive content

Major thrust: creating whitelists of web sites.

A whitelist includes web sites that are recommended for children and teenagers, checked by reputable organizations and the expert community.



International activity

The Safe Internet League is an internationally recognized expert in making a civilized cyberspace. The League is a regular of specialized international conferences, like the INHOPE and INSAFE conferences, and the Safer Internet Forum.

League partners are official members of the International Association of Internet Hotlines (INHOPE).



Increasing community activity

The League has developed Internet community tools that help get users involved in the common task of "cleaning" the Internet.

Internet hotlines" are established for Internet users to report illegal content.

"Report abuse" links are now seen not only on Russian-language, but also on international web sites. Special "Report abuse" and "Flag positive content" buttons are being developed for web browsers.





Konstantin Malofeyev, Safe Internet League trustee

A safe Internet is, above all, a free Internet. Only a genuinely safe environment can be free. There is no alternative. How do we make the Internet genuinely free? Firstly, remove harmful content; secondly, teach the children to avoid dangers; thirdly, raise a new generation of responsible Internet users with a culture of civil social media interaction.





BACKGROUND

The Internet as it had been before the League and the Cyberguard force, its main asset, were established

The last ten years saw a 25 times increase in the number of child pornography materials.

As a result, there came a 30 times increase in cases of sexual abuse of children.

According to UN figures, Russia, along with USA and Thailand, is one of the tree leading countries in terms of child pornography distribution rates.

Major businesses are virtually not involved in addressing the issue of dangerous content.

Self-regulation is rudimentary.

NGOs act disjointedly and compete for funding.

Government bodies lack proper feedback mechanisms.

Up to 90 per cent of Russian parents with children aged 6-12 have no idea of Internet threats and do not know to protect their children online.



7TH OF FEBRUARY 2011: THE SAFE INTERNET LEAGUE IS CREATED. A MONTH LATER FIRST CYBERGUARD UNITS ARE SET UP.



COMBATTING NEGATIVE CONTENT

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

The Cyberguard is a grassroots movement which members volunteer to detect illegal Internet content. It main aim is to create a safe Internet environment.



Its goals:

- Monitoring the Internet;
- · Detecting and shutting down dangerous content;
- · Combating paedophiles and child pornography on the Internet;
- · Protecting children online;
- Fighting promotion of violence;
- Fighting promotion of illegal drugs and alcohol;
- Flagging up dangerous content while surfing the Web;
- Searching for dangerous content specifically;
- Monitoring the Web, detecting cybercriminals;
- Infiltrating cybercriminal communities.

The Cyberguard force includes teams of programmers and webmasters. The movement employs psychologists and social counsellors.

2012 saw the Cyberguard force mustering 20 000 volunteers from various regions of Russia and its neighbouring states.

Operating within the legal framework, the Cyberguard is the only public organization recognized by law enforcement bodies and actively engaging with government bodies.

The first nine months of 2012 saw 319 instances of production and distribution of pornography uncovered by officers of the Russian Interior Ministry's "K" Department.

The Cyberguard volunteers helped to solve more than half of these cases.

-1 545 creports of promotion of illegal drugs were forwarded to law enforcement officials. 330 web sites had dangerous content deleted.

26 207 reports of child pornography were submitted. ≥10 679 web sites had dangerous content deleted.

instances of production and distribution of pornography were uncovered by officers of the Russian Interior Ministry's "K" Department, with direct help from the Cyberguard volunteers.





BUILDING UP REGIONAL CYBERGUARD NETWORK

CIS and neighbouring states' nationals join the Cyberguard alongside Russian volunteers.

In 2012 a whole number of regional Cyberguard meetings were organized by the Safe Internet League.

October 2012 — First St. Petersburg Cyberguard regional meeting.

November 2012 — Saratov Cyberguard (the largest regional force) meeting.

November 2012 — November 2012 — Ulyanovsk regional meeting. The Ulyanovsk branch pioneered the establishment of Cyberguard regional network.



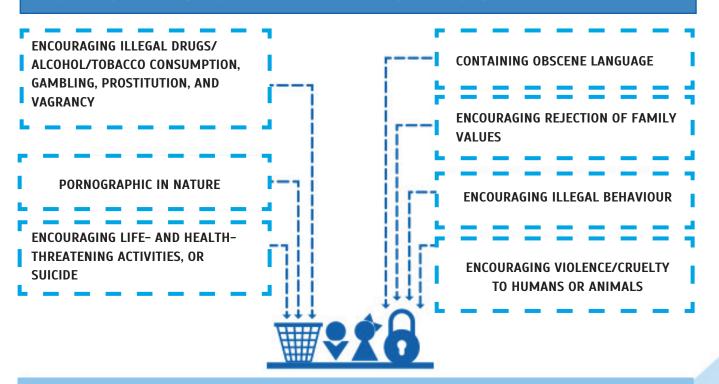




FEDERAL LAW NO. 139-FZ COMING INTO FORCE

FEDERAL LAW OF 29 JULY 2012 NO. 139-FZ ON AMENDING THE FEDERAL LAW "ON PROTECTING THE CHILDREN FROM INFORMATION HARMFUL TO THEIR HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT" AND INDIVIDUAL LEGISLATIVE ACTS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

INFORMATION HARMFUL TO THE HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN:



FEDERAL LAW OF 27 JULY 2012 NO. 149-FZ ON INFORMATION, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES AND PROTECTION OF INFORMATION

FEDERAL LAW OF 29
JULY 2012 NO. 139-FZ ON
AMENDING THE FEDERAL
LAW "ON PROTECTING
THE CHILDREN FROM
INFORMATION HARMFUL
TO THEIR HEALTH AND
DEVELOPMENT" AND
INDIVIDUAL LEGISLATIVE
ACTS OF THE RUSSIAN
FEDERATION

WHAT'S NEW:

- NEW EXPERT ANALYSIS
 OF INFORMATION
 PROCEDURE/ARTICLES 1718 OF 436-FZ
- CREATING A SINGLE
 BLACKLIST FOR BANNED
 DOMAIN NAMES, WEB
 SITES, AND IP ADDRESSES.
 ARTICLE NO. 15(1) OF 149FZ (NEW)
- NEW PRE-TRIAL
 PROCEDURE FOR BLOCKING
 ACCESS TO WEB SITES
 WITH ILLEGAL CONTENT.
 ARTICLE NO. 15(1) OF 149FZ (NEW)







Robert Schlegel, Russian State Duma member:

Only when the whole international community applies itself to the task will the Internet become safe. However effective Russian laws may be, the transnational nature of cybercrime undermines the prospect of a safe Russian-language Internet sector, which includes safe for our children to use. Major Internet threats – software piracy, propaganda of violence, child pornography, etc. – can only be addressed by concerted efforts of all the leading nations, so that cybercriminals worldwide would no longer be able to feel secure, wherever they are.





WHITELISTING AS A TREND

Building a children's Web is becoming trendy worldwide.

MOST NOTABLE PROJECTS:



.ДЕТИ domain zone is a joint project by the Coordination Centre for TLD RU/ PΦ and the Smart Internet Foundation, with support from the Russian Strategic Initiatives Agency. Web sites within the domain zone will be screened for compliance with childfriendly content rules, making use of computer algorithms, user reports, and expert opinion.



.An English-language domain name applied for by the Amazing Corp. and a Hong Kong corporation.



.A remote education and development project for children by the American Defence Advanced Research Project Agency (the creators of what became the Internet).

A SAFE INTERNET FOR CHILDREN AIMS:

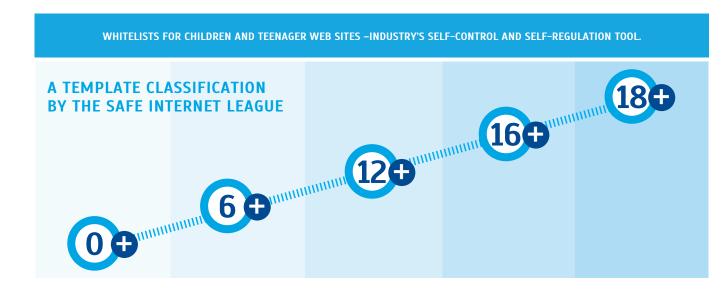


To build a platform for the future development of a children's Internet.



To make the Internet proper means of a child's development, not a quarantine zone.

To create conditions for the Russianlanguage Internet sector to better regulate itself, drawing up new rules and classifying content by target audience age.



AT THE MOMENT THERE ARE STILL TOO FEW WEB SITES IMPLEMENTING THE IDEA OF A SAFE INTERNET THROUGH WITELISTING IN RUSSIA:

KINDER.RU

(1998) - a web directory of Internet resources for children. 4000+ web sites.

QUIHTURA

(ceased to update in 2010) a visual-based search engine for children.

TIRNET -

KIDS' INTERNET a project by LinuxCenter.

.GOGUL.

the first Russian-language web browser for children a Mozilla Firefox browser extension sponsored by the Russian Safe Internet for Children Federal Programme.





EXPERT BOARD

Having had its first meeting on 12 December 2012, the League's Expert Board is to begin compiling web site whitelists.

Whitelists will be available in libraries, schools, and other educational institutions.

CREDENTIALS OF EXPERT BOARD WHITELISTERS

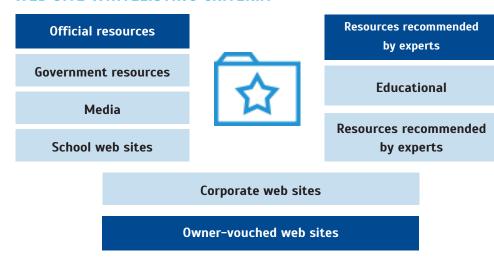
For official expert analysis:

- Roskomnadzor (Federal Service for Supervision in the Sphere of Telecom, Information Technologies and Mass Communications) accreditation;
- Forensic investigation licence;
- Other types of government accreditation;
- Developer/distributor status.

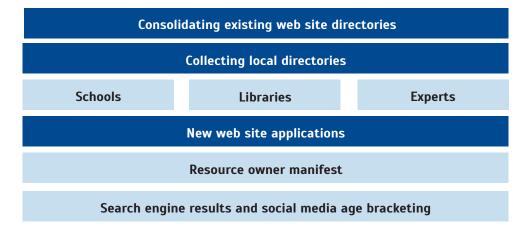
For public evaluation analysis:

- Voluntary registration;
- Accountability (public identity disclosure);
- Sufficient expertise;
- Ability to receive feedback.

WEB SITE WHITELISTING CRITERIA



WEB SITE WHITELISTING TECHNIQUES





Tina, a mother of two (Finland):

Access to internet should be limited and supervised by parents. We should safeguard the children by shielding them from information they cannot take in or comprehend, for one reason or another (i.e., their age). We should also keep them away from those who can have a bad influence on them.

As a parent, I must be sure my children are safe online, in addition to minding my own private safety on the Internet.





THE LEAGUE HANDS OVER ITS DANGEROUS CONTENT REPORT PROCESSING SYSTEM TO ROSKOMNADZOR



In October 2012 the dangerous web sites report collection system developed by the Safe Internet League was handed over to Roskomnadzor, the controlling body of the official Russian Internet Blacklist.

An illegal web content report collection system developed by the Safe Internet League has been handed over to the authorities.

Denis Davydov, Safe Internet League CEO:

The decision was agreed upon by the League's Board of Trustees. The computer system enables one to process dangerous content reported online, including child pornography, and then request access to the web sites to be blocked. Internationally recognized, the mechanism we developed is second to none expect a similar US project.

It has already proven its efficiency: the first eight months of 2012 saw the authorities, acting on the League's requests, remove almost 11 400 web pages containing child pornography, along with more than 700 pages containing information on illegal drugs.

Denis Davydov, Safe Internet League CEO:

Around half of all cases involving distribution of child pornography prosecuted in 2012 were brought before the court acting on information provided by the Safe Internet League, against only a third of all cases in 2011. Moreover, real punishment is beginning to be meted out to individuals guilty of distributing child pornography. For example, a man who organized a big child pornography network uncovered by out activists has recently been brought to justice.



THE LEAGUE HELPS ROSKOMNADZOR IMPROVE ITS USER SERVICES

Our aim

The Safe Internet League aims to improve the functionality of the official Russian Internet Blacklist.

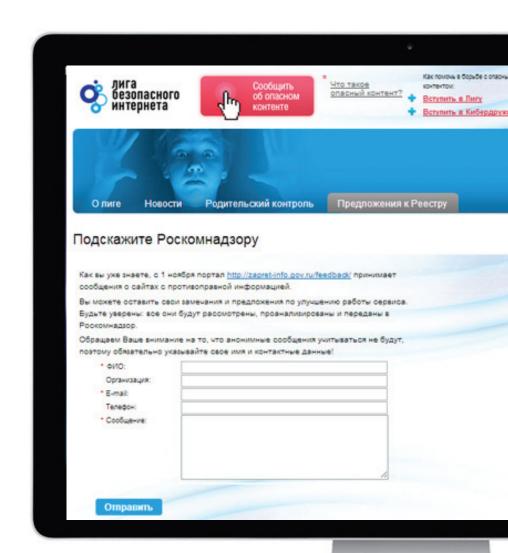
November 2012: The League began collecting user and expert feedback suggesting ways of improving the work of the Blacklist.

Our experts made a number of recommendations on how to improve its functionality, especially in terms of submission forms and authorization for regular submitters.

The League's official web site had a section where users could submit their relevant suggestions opened.

By the end of the first week the official Blacklist went operational, the League's Cyberguard volunteers had submitted more than a thousand individual reports of web pages presumably in violation of the law. A total of more than 6 000 reports had been submitted, ith more than 5 000 rejected.

The next step is an online awareness campaign which helps us engage with Internet users through our own channels.



"RUNET PRIZE" AWARD SEES A "SAFE INTERNET" NOMINATION INSTITUTED BY THE LEAGUE



Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation:

The Internet is a means for addressing important macroeconomic and social issues, a way of communication, of self-expression. It is a means of improving quality of life, the society's information provision.



Igor Schegolev, presidential aide:

To solve the issues of Internet safety one needs to have members of the government, business and society join forces. Which is exactly the model we chose in Russia by creating the Safe Internet League, bringing together major telecom operators, Internet security experts, and representatives from government bodies.

The Russian-language Internet sector's infrastructure is being developed as a direct democracy, and we need to take advantage of the tools it provides.

On 21 November 2012 the IX Runet Prize Award ceremony was held.

The Runet Prize is a sign of recognition of outstanding service awarded to leading Russian telecom companies, state and public organizations, individuals as well as businesses, for their significant contribution to the development of the Russian segment of the Internet (Runet).

The Safe Internet League is a partner of its organizing committee and the institutor of its "Safe Runet" nomination. The 2012 winners in this category are:

- The Kaspersky Antivirus www.kaspersky.ru
- The "Bezopasnost" project by MTS www.safety.mts.ru
- The Russian Interior Ministry's "K" Department www.mvd.ru







BLACKLIST'S QUARTERLY REPORT

The official Blacklist's 1 November 2012 – 3 February 2013 figures:

1. Online submissions, including: Processed	25 704
Rejected, returned	25 676 23 367
2. Online submissions passed the checks and forwarded for	2 281
approval by the authorities, including	239
to Roskomnadzor	608
to Rospotrebnadzor	1 434
to FSKN	
3. Decisions issued by the authorities, including	3 166
by Roskomnadzor	239
by Rospotrebnadzor	694
by FSKN	2 233
4. Submissions rejected by the authorities as not containing	664
banned material, including	0
by Roskomnadzor	84
by Rospotrebnadzor by FSKN	799

5. New entries made, including	2 251
by Roskomnadzor	2 36
by Rospotrebnadzor	607
by FSKN	1 408
6. Instances of deleted information detected	1 021

Denis Davydov, Safe Internet League CEO

Today we can safely say that the system is effective.

Figures obtained by us show that both web site owners and web hosting providers, that is, the Internet community in general, are promptly responding to reports of dangerous content like child pornography or materials encouraging drug abuse and suicide.

We have had a great number of critics talking of possible errors in the Blacklist, however, in 19 000 reports processed in one month only 2 errors were made.

We are very much encouraged by the stance the Internet community took by promptly removing banned material, quite a constructive move, I'd say. This is one of the signs the system provides tangible results.

FIRST MEETING OF THE LEAGUE'S EXPERT BOARD

On 12 December 2012

the first meeting of the Safe Internet League's Expert Board took place.

The Board includes leading Russian specialists in information networks and infrastructure, software development, data protection, as well as prominent members of the Russian-speaking Internet community.

The Board established working groups to streamline coordination of expert opinion.

Tree working groups were established.

The Legal and Technical groups will focus on elaborating proposed changes to the laws and subordinate acts with consideration for the specific way the Internet is developing.

The Cybercrime working group will be coming up with recommendations on combating illegal online activities.

One of its major tasks will be compiling and updating whitelists – lists of web sites for children and cultural institutions use.

Another task will be creating agedefined whitelists.

All these measures are expected to prove pivotal to fostering positive content.





Andrey Vorobyov, RU-CENTER's Director of PR&GR:

A safe Internet is a space where all users are protected: adults and children, companies, NGOs, and governmental bodies alike.

Each Internet user requires a different degree of protection. Adult users want to feel secure when paying for goods and services online. Children require a space free from "harmful" content. They need help learning to use the Internet, which at the first glance looks so harmless and intuitive.





INCREASING USER ACTIVITY

In October 2012 an agreement between the Safe Internet League and the Russian Orthodox University saw a new IT academic department established.

Denis Davydov, the League's CEO:

The newly created department will welcome students that are patriots, but at the same time are hi-tech specialists. Unfortunately, having graduated from prestigious Russian universities, our specialists usually choose to work abroad, using home-grown talents to improve life in other countries. I am confident that students who graduate from this IT department will stay and work in Russia, for the benefit of the Russian people and Orthodoxy.

Internet community tools developed by the League:

- Hotlines;
- "Report abuse" and "Flag positive content" links;
- Browser extensions;
- Expert opinion online service.







DEVELOPING CONTENT FILTERS

What it is:

A special programme (module) to control a child's computer and Internet usage.

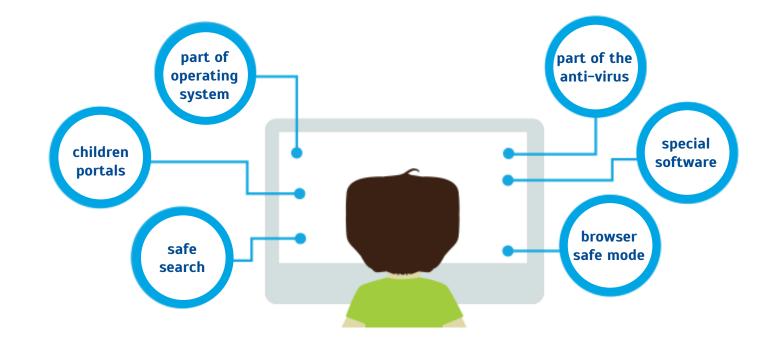
Content filtering:

First, searching for and detecting Internet content with undesirable or dangerous material, usually by comparing against a list of "bad" or "banned" keywords, then correcting the information or blocking access to the resource.

Drawbacks:

- Requires a separate user profile to stop the child from switching off the programme;
- Not all parents will be able to set the programme up properly;
- Keyword list updates can never be proactive;
- Content filtering requires significant processing power or high-speed Internet access.

OPTIONS





Victoria, mother of two, housewife:

With Dasha (aged 7) already into online games and Katya (aged 4) curious about the Net, for me safe Internet is far from an abstract issue. At the moment I and my husband are able to control what web sites they are visiting and what games are playing. But we can't be everywhere. Fortunately, we have filtering programmes on our computer. Creating a safe Internet for one's child is up to the parents.

THE LEAGUE AS AN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED EXPERT

The League's partners are members of INHOPE, an international organization currently comprising 41 Internet hotlines in 36 nations across the globe.

Created in 1999, INHOPE's network is the largest in the world, coordinating different national hotlines to prevent the spread of material involving child sexual abuse.

Only two Russian organizations are represented among its members – the Friendly Runet Foundation and the Safer Internet Centre. Both are members of the Safe Internet League.





DATA EXCHANGE WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

The Safe Internet League constantly engages with international organizations, enabling it to effectively combat the spread of dangerous content originating in Russia abroad.

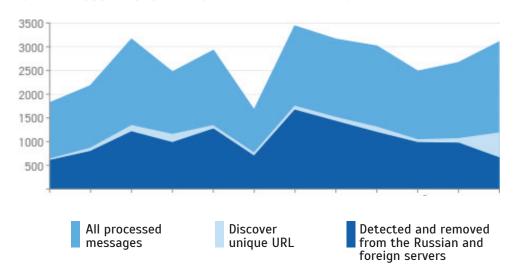
90% of banned material involving child pornography is purposefully hosted abroad.

2012 saw the League's hotlines receiving almost 32 000 reports of web sites containing child pornography, with 12 000 of the illegal resources detected and removed from the Russian and foreign servers.

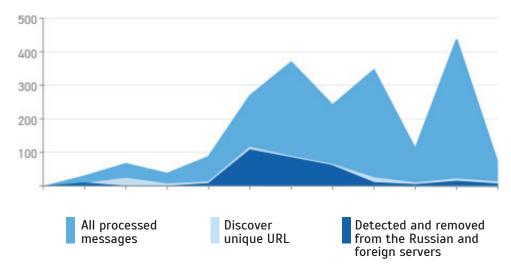
The same period saw 2054 reports of Internet resources on sale and manufacture of illegal drugs. Most of the web sites in question – 1700 – were hosted outside the Russian Federation.

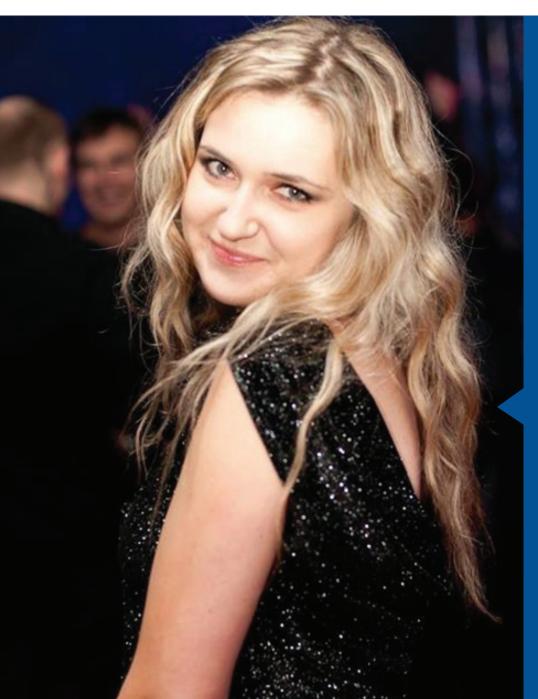
The offending sites are referred to INHOPE, enabling prompt and robust action to be taken to address their owners regardless of their place of residence. The illegal material is then, as a rule, removed within hours.

CSTATISTICS MESSAGING USERS OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY ON THE RUSSIAN SEGMENT OF THE INTERNET IN 2012



STATISTICS MESSAGING USERS, SALES AND PROMOTION OF DRUGS IN THE RUSSIAN SEGMENT OF THE INTERNET IN 2012.





Natalia Vlasova, Deputy Chief Editor of the Utro na STS breakfast show, one of the top ten journalists of 2011 (Moldova):

To my mind, a safe Internet is the Internet I will easily let my future child access.

The Internet has already begun to speak its own language, coining new words we then use in our daily lives. I sometimes think what will it be like when we fully adopt its language? When, having read too much of that kind of 'literature', we lose all notion of proper, literary language... And of proper, civil social interaction, too...





SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

1. A search engine for "bad content"

Its goals:

- Determining the structure of the Russian-language Internet, its safe to dangerous content ratio;
- · Searching for duplicate and mirror sites hosting banned material;
- · Maintaining global online "exploration works" to uncover illegal material.

Denis Davydov, Safe Internet League CEO:

It is clear that ordinary users reporting dangerous content to Roskomnadzor http://zapret-info.gov.ru/ is not enough.

We need to improve our means of searching and identifying banned material automatically.

Russian Cyberspace requires a full-scale cleaning operation.
Only a specialized web search engine can really provide us with information on how things stand in terms of dangerous content. Plus, such a system would greatly help the efforts to block access to banned material.

2. An API for the Blacklist

Creating an open-source Application Programming Interface (API) for the official Blacklist would solve one of its major weaknesses.

Under current arrangements all the relevant communication (Blacklist experts' interaction with web site owners and hosting providers) takes place via e-mail. An e-mail can be falsely flagged as spam or get lost. Hosting providers abroad sometimes fail to act promptly enough.

The alternative is an API.

Hosting providers or web site owners register with Roskomnadzor.

As soon as one of its pages gets blacklisted they get a notification about the specific page through the API.

As a result, the offence is promptly addressed.

- 3. Modern "intellectual parental control systems».
- 4. "Report abuse" buttons for web browsers.





IMPROVING SAFE INTERNET LEGISLATION AND PROVIDING EXPERT SUPPORT



IV Annual Safe Internet Forum

On 7 February the 2013 Safe Internet Forum, the industry's main conference on online safety of children and adults, will take place in the RIA Novosti media centre.

Main key-points on the 2013 agenda will be:

- International experience in ensuring online security;
- Data protection and Runet: corporate security, combatting phishing, malware and software viruses, online retail security (payments, transactions, banking);
- · Legal aspects of online security;
- Technical issues of content filtration;
- Protection of underage Internet users;
- First results of enforcing the 139-FZ and 436-FZ laws: pros and cons, application practice, potential amendments.

Among the guests are international experts – INHOPE and European Parliament members.

Public organizations liaison

Enhancing our cooperation with:

- The National Association of Parents;
- The School Libraries Association;
- The Support for Children in Hardship Foundation (the Marina Gordeyeva Foundation).





INCREASING COMPUTER LITERACY

Online safety classes:

- Conducting the lessons;
- Developing the methodology;
- Developing the software.

Organizers: The Safe Internet League, Moscow Municipal Department for Education; "K" Department of the Interior Ministry.

Lesson structure: roleplaying basic rules of online conduct and the threats the kids might face online.

A test at the end of the class to indicate how well the rules of safe Internet usage sunk in.

Creating information materials.

Developing and distributing online safety quick reference cards.







2013 CYBERGUARD AGENDA



Creating a dedicated social network for Cyberguard volunteers (based on the Safe Internet League's official web site).



Boosting Cyberguard membership and expanding its regional branches network.

2013 is expected to see new local branches opening in 50 regions of the Russian Federation, as well as in CIS and neighbouring countries.



Expanding the scope of illegal material detection programme.

Introducing six new categories of dangerous content to be reported via hotlines (in addition to information regarding illegal drug sale, distribution of child pornography and pro-suicide materials).



Cyberguard volunteer day.

An All-Russian Cyberguard meeting to be held on in April 2013.



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Social networks:

- http://www.facebook.com/ligainternet
- http://vkontakte.ru/liga
- http://twitter.com/ligainternet
- http://ligainternet.livejournal.com/

2012