

**Minutes of the
First Meeting of the
Online Safety and Technology Working Group**

Meeting Date and Time:

June 4, 2009, 10:00 a.m.

Location:

Federal Communications Commission Meeting Room
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20230

Participants in Attendance:

Co-Chairs:

Anne Collier, Net Family News, Inc./ConnectSafely.org
Hemanshu Nigam, News Corporation | MySpace

Private sector participants [All attending in person unless otherwise noted]

Parry Aftab, WiredSafety
Elizabeth Banker, Yahoo! Inc.
Christopher Bubb, AOL
Bradon Cox, NetChoice Coalition
Caroline Curtin, Microsoft [not in attendance]
Brian Cute, Afilias U.S.A.
Jeremy Geigle, Arizona Family Council
Marsali Hancock, Internet Keep Safe Coalition
Michael Kaiser, National Cyber Security Alliance
Christopher Kelly, Facebook
Hedda Litwin, Cyberspace Law Counsel of the National Association of Attorneys General
Brian Knapp, Loopt, Inc. [by telephone]
Timothy Lordan, Internet Education Foundation
Larry Magid, SafeKids.com/ConnectSafely.org
Brian Markwalter, Consumer Electronics Association
Michael McKeehan, Verizon Communications, Inc.
Samuel McQuade, III, Rochester Institute of Technology
Orit Michiel, Motion Picture Association of America, Inc.
John Morris, Center for Democracy & Technology
Jonathon Nevett, Network Solutions, LLC
Jill Nissen, Ning, Inc.
Jay Opperman, Comcast Corporation

Kevin Rupy, United States Telecom Association
John Shehan, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
K. Dane Snowden, CTIA - the Wireless Association
Adam Thierer, Progress & Freedom Foundation
Patricia Vance, Entertainment Software Rating Board
Ralph Yarro, The CP80 Foundation

Federal Government Participants

Robert Cannon, Federal Communications Commission
Cheryl Petty Garnett, U.S. Department of Education
Monique Perez Roth, U.S. Department of Justice, joined at this meeting by Deputy Attorney
General Jason Weinstein
Nat Wood, Federal Trade Commission

Participating NTIA Staff:

Acting Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information Anna Gomez
Acting Associate Administrator, Office of Policy Analysis and Development

Public Attendance:

Members of the public and additional staff from NTIA and other agencies attended the meeting.

Meeting Agenda:

1. Call to Order and Welcoming Remarks

Co-chair Nigam opened the meeting, introducing himself and Ms. Collier. He reiterated the purposes of OSTWG, including the need to evaluate industry efforts to promote online safety through educational and technological efforts. He noted the June 2010 deadline for submitting a report to Congress. Co-chair Collier made brief remarks about building on the efforts of the 2008 Technical Safety Task Force, and emphasized the latest concerns of online safety within a social media context. She then introduced Acting Assistant Secretary Anna M. Gomez.

2. Opening Remarks by Anna Gomez

Anna M. Gomez, Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, thanked the group and spoke briefly about the importance of online safety. She emphasized that today's children comprise the first generation to never know a world without everyday Internet use.

3. Remarks by Susan Crawford

Susan Crawford, Special Assistant to the President for Science, Technology and Innovation, thanked the group and noted that OTSWG was the latest of a long line of commissions related to Internet safety. She said that President Obama, being a father of young children himself, was especially interested in parents having the ability to control what their children can access online.

She asked the group to avoid three potential hazards as they meet during the next year: overheated rhetoric, legal pitfalls, and technological mandates.

4. Video Presentation of Recorded Talk by KSU Professor Michael Wesch, given at the Library of Congress

An edited version of Mr. Kelly's video was shown, where he discussed the influence of YouTube on society.

5. Introductions by Working Group Members

Each of the Working Group Members introduced themselves and explained why online safety issues were important for themselves, both on a professional and personal basis.

6. Remarks by Federal Government Representatives on Government Role and Online Safety Work to Date

Nat Wood, who is with the Federal Trade Commission's Bureau of Consumer Protection, said that the FTC began to work on Internet issues in the 1990s, including overseeing the Children Online Protection ACT ("COPA") legislation. He said the agency plans to review COPA during the next year. He discussed OnGuard Online, an FTC project that partners with the private sector to provide information about Internet fraud, which he also hoped the FTC would expand upon in the next year.

Cheryl Garnett of the Department of Education noted that the country was starting to close the Internet access gap between lower income and middle class income families. She also discussed a national cyber-bullying conference that the Department would host in August.

Robert Cannon of the Federal Communications Commission's Office of Strategic Planning, explained what the FCC's online safety efforts, especially in schools that received universal service funding.

Deputy Assistant Attorney General Jason Weinstein spoke on behalf of the Department of Justice. He noted that Justice handled work in not just investigating and prosecuting crimes, but also conducting education campaigns among children and parents to prevent such crimes.

Co-Chair Nigam introduced Tim Sloan, Acting Director of NTIA's Office of Policy Analysis and Development, who gave an overview of NTIA's functions and its role in this working group.

7. Remarks by Subcommittee Chairs

a. Education Subcommittee

Larry Magid presented reviewed the history of educational efforts on online safety going back to the 1990s and raised concerns that many of the parental control mechanisms were not reaching

families with high-risk children. He said one of the biggest challenges of the committee was to present recommendations for reaching the underserved population. He noted that he hoped to instill in young people a sense of self-determination and media literacy to help prevent future problems.

b. Data Retention Subcommittee

Mike McKeehan addressed the goal of providers in retaining information connected with crimes against children. He said that ISPs had inconsistent standards for when and how they retained data. He noted the need to coordinate with both federal and local law enforcement to maintain standards, and balance the needs of law enforcement with the Internet community.

c. Child Pornography Reporting Subcommittee

Chris Bubb stated the goals of the subcommittee included identify survey industry practices and determining compliance standards for websites

d. Protection Technology Subcommittee

Adam. Thierer stated that the purpose of the subcommittee was to investigate efforts related to mechanisms such as parental control technology and filtering software. He also noted that it was important for the subcommittee to study the actual offensive contacts, in addition to the content of the material being passed to children. He added that it was difficult sometimes to determine the effectiveness of various filters.

8. Closing Discussion

Co-Chairs Nigam and Collier discussed logistics for members picking subcommittees, subsequent meetings, and an overall plan for the working group for the following year. Co-Chair Collier stated that the co-chairs have in mind a total of six meetings, with the next meeting of the full Working Group most likely to be set for September 24, with the meeting after that either November 3 or 6. The next two meetings would likely be in January and March. Each meeting would focus on the work of one subcommittee. There was also discussion of future locations of meetings, including the possibility of hosting some on Capitol Hill, as well as the structure of the meetings.