Where We Are:
Life Online

RELATING TO COMPUTERS
RELATING VIA COMPUTERS TO PEOPLE
DEALING WITH LIFE ONLINE
The Internet Usage Explosion

Global population and Internet users, 2000-2020

Number of people (billions)

- Global population
- Internet users

2000 2010 2020
The Evolution of Computer users

1940–1960 programmer, user (specialist)
1960–1975 programmer (hacker), user (specialist)
1975–1980 programmer (hacker), user (specialist / hobbyist)
1980–1990 programmer (hacker),
    user (specialist / general (few))
1990+ programmer (hacker), user (general (many))

- Average modern computer user as fusion of classic programmer and user.
The Diversity of Life Online

- Nature of relationship:
  - Number of people inter-relating (degree of community)
  - Degree of involvement
  - Degree of anonymity
  - Degree of centralization
  - Frequency of access

- Locus of relationship:
  - Organization-based, *e.g.*, software user groups
  - Interest-based, *e.g.*, chat rooms, MUDs
  - Product-based, *e.g.*, Facebook, World of Warcraft
## Life Online: Joys and Perils

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<th>Joys</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Perils</th>
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<td>Freedom of action</td>
<td>Access easy</td>
<td>Cyberbullying</td>
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<td>Freedom of expression</td>
<td>Access cheap</td>
<td>Cyberstalking</td>
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<td>Freedom of interaction</td>
<td>Access anonymous</td>
<td>Catfishing</td>
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<td>Access anyone</td>
<td>Spam</td>
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<td>Access anytime</td>
<td>Phishing and malware</td>
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<td>Game / Net addiction</td>
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- The above is a taxonomy of some of what *can* happen; need to know what *actually* happens and *how often* it happens, both for individual and societal comfort.
- Turkle and Ito work is a good start – need a Web Kinsey!
Surviving and Thriving in Life Online

- Be a Digital Adult (Shea, Zuckerberg):
  - Be courteous
  - Be forgiving
  - Be responsible for what you say
  - Be responsible in how you use your time

- Be a Digital Citizen (Rheingold):
  1. Know why you’re doing what you’re doing (mindfulness)
  2. Learn what and who you can trust (Crap Detection 101)
  3. Learn how to participate responsibly and effectively.
  4. Learn how to collaborate responsibly and effectively.
  5. Learn and use relevant technology to aid in (1–4) above.

“Don’t Panic” – The Hitchiker’s Guide to the Galaxy
“Let’s be careful out there” – Hill Street Blues