



# Cyberstalking



## What is cybers talking?

- Cyberstalking is the use of the Internet, including e-mail, chat rooms, message boards, and discussion forums to threaten, harass or stalk another person.
- Cyberstalking differs from traditional stalking in that the individual can be a 1,000 miles away or in the dorm room next to you.
- Personal information including your name, address, and phone number are relatively easy to find online by someone who is internet savvy.

## It's more common than you think:

According to Working to Halt Online Abuse:

- 77% of the world's cyberstalking takes place in the United States
- 83% of cyberstalking victims are female, and 40% of victims are single.
- 54% of victims are Caucasian
- 49% of victims reported that they had prior contact with the stalker, 49% said they had no prior contact.

## Need more information?

- **UGA Police:** (706) 542-2200
- **Cyberangels:** [www.cyberangels.org/](http://www.cyberangels.org/)
- **The National Center for Victims of Crime:** [www.ncvc.org/](http://www.ncvc.org/)
- **Wired Patrol:** [www.wiredpatrol.org/](http://www.wiredpatrol.org/)
- **Witness Justice:** [www.witnessjustice.org/](http://www.witnessjustice.org/)

## What can you do?

- Pick a username for your e-mail that does not reveal your gender, age, or geographic area. Do the same when picking identity names (screen names or "aliases") for chat rooms, instant messenger programs, or discussion forums.
- Don not fill out 'profiles' that reveal personal details when signing up for your main e-mail account or any free e-mail account or any online services.
- If you meet people online in chat rooms or via mail lists, instant messenger programs, or usenet groups, do not assume that they are telling you the truth about who they are and do not give them any personal details about yourself.
- Be extremely cautious about meeting online acquaintances in person. If you choose to meet, do so in a public place and take along a friend.
- Save all communications for evidence. Also, keep a record of your contacts with Internet system administrators or law enforcement officials.
- If harassment continues after you have asked the person to stop, contact the harasser's Internet Service Provider (ISP) or the local police department.