Welcome to this training lesson on **Sexting and Snapchat.** In this lesson, we'll look at the dangers of sexting, and using apps like - but not limited to - **Snapchat.** 

**Estimated Completion Time:** 8 minutes.

**Sexting.** Sexting refers to the sending, receiving, or forwarding of images with nudity, sexual, or obscene content.

Once again, youth are in most danger of sexting. Peer pressure, lack of awareness of legal ramifications, and responding to requests for 'nude pictures' can lead young people to send, receive or forward such images without any real understanding of the consequences.

And consequences there are.



**Sexting (2).** First of all, there are legal consequences, particularly if the person(s) in the photos are under age, or are received, or forwarded by under age children. Quite apart from the common sense approach, as laws change in all countries and states differ - and continue to evolve, there can be no stronger statement than **don't do it.** 



**Sexting (3).** Finally, let us not forget that any images you send could end up anywhere on the Internet. Your loving boyfriend/girlfriend now may change after you break up - and there are even websites designed specifically for people to post sexual images of previous girlfriends/boyfriends.

The psychological ramifications for those affected, and the legal ramifications for those who post such images cannot be understated.

#### Do not sext! Do not encourage others to sext!

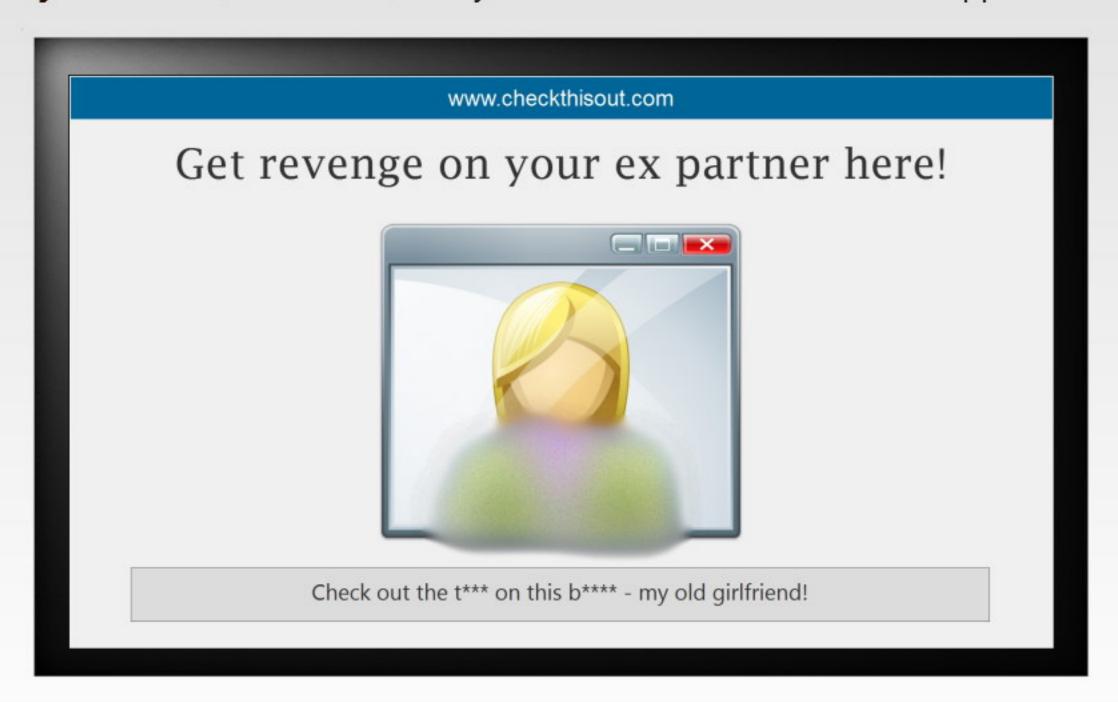


Case Study: Let's have a look at an all too familiar scenario - and possible consequences.

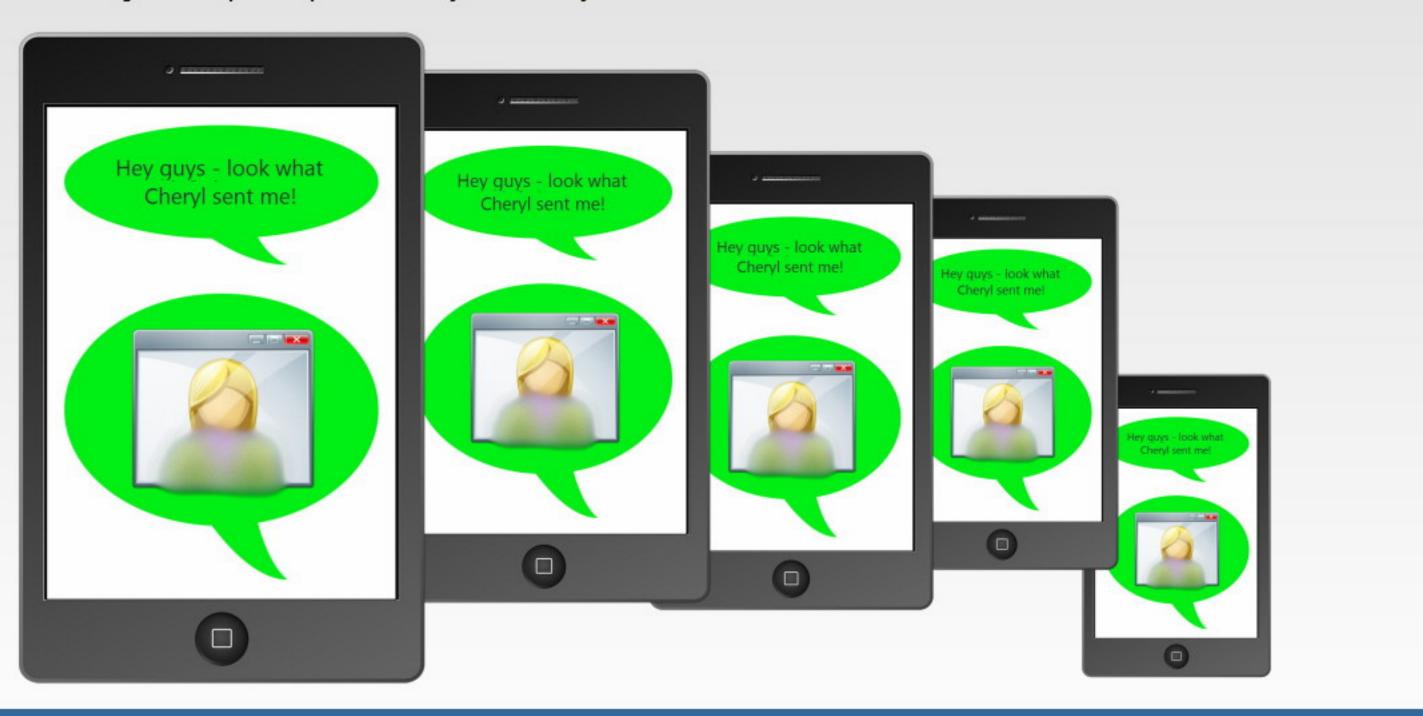




Case Study: One week, one month, one year later - and this is what can happen.



Case Study: Or - perhaps the very next day...



**Trust.** Try not to make this a decision related to trust. Yes, the person you send an image to may be trustworthy. You think. For now.

Phones can be hacked. Accounts can be hacked. Friends can borrow a friends phone. Images can be sent by accident. Ex-partners can get angry and malicious once a relationship is over.



**What is Snapchat?** Snapchat is an 'app' - generally run on mobile devices, where users can send each other photos. These photos, apparently, are deleted after a few seconds, from both the senders, and recipients, devices.

Snapchat is not the only app that has this 'feature'.

Apps and programs like this give users a **false** sense of security about the images they have sent.



Photos can't Disappear. Let us start with this point - any photo you send - in any app - will not necessarily disappear.

If you send an image to anyone, regardless of whether you think that image will magically disappear within a few seconds of being viewed, there is every chance that the image you send has been saved by the recipient.

This can be done by taking a screen shot. Or using another camera to take a photo of the image on screen. Or using unsafe apps.



**Photos are Permanent.** The safest thing you can do for yourself is to understand this simple fact.

Any photo you send, or post online, should be considered permanently saved. And quite possibly uploaded to the Internet, and/or forwarded to others.



**Real Life Scenarios.** Sad to say, but we don't have to talk about *possible* dangers. These dangers are real, and are happening everyday.

The private, and embarrassing, images of users are being shared on the Internet all the time. Recently, 200,000 Snapchat images were shared online. This happens to the rich and famous, as well as schoolchildren, young adults, and potentially anyone.



**Blackmail.** Sadly, there are horrible people around - and many times they may pretend to be your friend.

You may already have been encouraged to send revealing or nude images to another person. **Don't do it.** Friend, boyfriend, girlfriend, online friend - **don't do it.** 

Some of the bad people we've referred to play a terrible game. Once you've sent them a nude or revealing image, you may find yourself a victim of blackmail. Provide money, or sexual favors, or the photographs are posted online.



**Peer Pressure.** Young people, particularly females, may feel tremendous peer pressure to send revealing or nude photographs to others. Clearly, work needs to be done - particularly in schools, to prevent this sort of thing from happening.

Ultimately, even a request to send a nude photo may become an offence. In the meantime, only you have the power to say no. When you consider the potential downside, it should be an easy decision. **Don't do it.** 



**Forwarding Photos.** If anybody forwards you an image sent by someone else, one that is revealing, embarrassing, or otherwise inappropriate, you must **never forward that photo** to others. To do so may make you just as legally and morally liable as the person who sent the image to you.

Delete the image. If it is appropriate, report that person, or let that person know that sending such images is entirely inappropriate and quite possibly illegal.



You've now completed this training lesson on **Sexting and Snapchat.** In this lesson, we looked at the dangers of sexting, and using apps like - but not limited to - **Snapchat.**