Software Development Unit 3, 1.5

Anna Legaspi

# 1.5 I can identify and respond to inappropriate content and behaviour

## Spam emails

I’ve found myself register for a service online and the next thing I know, I’m suddenly receiving a large amount of Spam emails from various third-party companies. The permissions to add an email address to a company’s mailing list is normally within the Terms and Conditions, which no one ever reads. There is an element of responsibility for the user to check what they are registering for, but some companies do take advantage. These are relatively harmless and the worst it can do is increase time dedicated to inbox management. The best thing to do is to unsubscribe to these annoying emails and delete them from your inbox.

## Suspicious emails (work)

Cybercriminals will continue to try and send malicious and inappropriate emails to try and obtain personal data. In some cases, it’s not just enough to delete these, especially in a work environment. At our place of work, any suspicious email must be reported to the IT department and immediately deleted from our inbox. We even have the occasional test where the IT team would pretend to send a malicious email to employees to make sure that we are aware of the correct process if this were to happen.

## Pop ups

Before pop-up blockers existed, pop-ups used to be an annoyance. You open a page and you’re greeted with at least 3 pop-up adverts. Sometimes, the pop-ups are presented in a way to entice you to click a link which will initiate the download of a malware. I remember seeing a lot of adverts stating “*We have scanned your PC and you have 105 viruses. To fix this, click ‘OK’*”. The intention was to worry the user and entice them to click OK. If I didn’t know any better, I would’ve clicked ‘OK’ and a malware would then be installed in my PC. To avoid pop-ups and the ads that come along with it, the best thing to do is to install an ad blocker. I currently have one installed as an extension on Google Chrome which works really well for me.

## Online Social Communities

Social media has taken over the modern world and everyone posts about their life, including what food they’ve been eating. Needless to say, this opens the possibility for individuals to post inappropriate content. Some social media platform users of Facebook, Instagram and Twitter may post such content and it’s important to report these when spotted. Luckily, all these platforms have the facility to report a post for a variety of bad behaviour. Examples below taken from Facebook.

* Nudity or other sexually suggestive content
* Hate speech, credible threats or direct attacks on an individual group
* Content that contains self-harm or excessive violence
* Fake or impostor profiles
* Spam

Since the internet opens multiple ways of communications, some predators take advantage of this. There are criminals out there who lie about who they are to try and lure victims of all ages. From a child’s standpoint, it’s important that their parents/guardians are aware of the people their child is speaking to. Even adults should be cautious, as some people pretend to be someone they’re not to try and steal money. A prime example is from the documentary Tinder Swindler, where a man lies about his identity to obtain money from vulnerable women and lives a life of luxury. These types of crimes must be reported to the police.