Article summary

The article “Naming names on the Internet” published in the IHT magazine by Eric Pfanner is devoted to the problems of the privacy policy of the Internet.

The author says that 3 years ago South Korea introduced a policy aimed at stamping out online hate after the suicide of a popular actress. That policy made the web users to use their real names instead of pseudonyms. But after that innovation hackers stole 35 million of national identification numbers through a security breach, the article states.

It is also mentioned that Pfanner claims that the “real name policies” are not efficient and that anonymity is vital for some people. After that author observes that a month before the Interior Minister of Germany said that bloggers should disclose their true identities. He was supported by Eric Schmidt, the executive chairman of Google. Schmidt shared the opinion that people don’t have to use Google Plus If they do not want to share their real names. The author admits that the Net would be more civilized if people used their real names. He adds, that cyber bullying is bad and therefore anonymity shouldn’t be defended too much.

Pfafner asks himself if online death threats should be considered less menacing than threats send by mail or expressed in person. The case of a California man who is accused of posting 8000 anonymous abusive messages about a Buddhist leader and her congregation shows that there are ways of hunting out the anonymous users.

The author of the article also notices that using real identities is supported for commercial reasons. He quotes E. Schmidt: “If we knew that it was a real person, then we could sort of hold them accountable, we could check them, we could give them things…”

The journalist admits that this problem is very difficult and gets to this conclusion: “the real world is often messy, chaotic and anonymous. The Internet is mostly better that way, too”.

Problem solution essay

How interpersonal communication can be improved in today’s online world? This pressing question gets many sociologist, psychologists, IT-engineers and ordinary Internet users puzzled.

There are couple of solutions that can make connections between people via the Internet less impersonal, more natural and fulfilled. First, we can make scholars to study interpersonal connections and conflictology, both offline and online. It would not only improve communication between people on the Internet but most importantly will improve the quality of our everyday life by developing a culture of speech and psychological knowledge among citizens.

Secondly, it is important to support forum-sites where people can discuss and share their interests and problems. When there is so much impersonality on the Web, it is very crucial to know that there are people who really have something in common with you, who would perceive you as a person and can help you without any compensation, professionally or simply supportive, just because of their humane motivations.

Also, we can move towards making Internet a safer place by finding and eliminating hate, disrespectful and insulting content, protecting children from the parts of the Internet that are not suitable for their age, teaching their parents how to limit it and how to promote live communication.

All three of these solutions can be implemented without any contradiction between them. Furthermore, these solutions would complement and amplify each other, giving the Internet’s interpersonal communication needed incentive for controlled and prosperous evolution.