

Your use of the free online interactive services offered at this site is conditional upon your acceptance and observance of the following "Code of Conduct". This comprises the text of the mc<sup>2</sup> sections linked below, plus the relevant sections of the Vicnet and State Government sites:

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**mc<sup>2</sup> reserves the right to remove (without notice) any user or group in breach of the Code of Conduct, and any content deemed inappropriate**

Vicnet reserves the right to alter the Code of Conduct at any time, without notice. By continuing to use mc<sup>2</sup>, you agree to be bound by the [latest changes](#).

## Introduction

**We want mc<sup>2</sup> to be a safe, secure environment for people to share their experiences and engage with others.** Harassment, offensive or obscene behaviour is not allowed, and bad behaviour will not be tolerated. Racial vilification or illegal activities are also not permitted. All members of mc<sup>2</sup> are bound and protected by the **Code of Conduct** and **Privacy Policy**. Please note that all responsibility for the **content** and **membership** of each community at mc<sup>2</sup> lies with the Community Owners/Moderators, who have administrative rights to approve, edit and delete the contents and membership of their own online community (see the [disclaimer](#)). "**Content**" may include text, images, sound or video that is hosted on the mc<sup>2</sup> server, exchanged in a chat room, sent via email, or viewed via webcam.

**The mc<sup>2</sup> project staff, Community Owners and Moderators; reserve the right to take appropriate action, without notice, to remove any content deemed inappropriate, and any user or group in breach of the Code of Conduct.**

**Vicnet reserves the right to alter this document at any time, without notice. By continuing to use mc<sup>2</sup>, you agree to be bound by the latest changes. It is the responsibility of mc<sup>2</sup> users to have read the most up-to-date Code of Conduct on the mc<sup>2</sup> site at: [mc2.vicnet.net.au/code](http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/code) and Privacy Policy at [mc2.vicnet.net.au/privacy](http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/privacy)** mc<sup>2</sup> is coordinated by Vicnet, so, where applicable, the [Vicnet Terms & Conditions](#) also apply to mc<sup>2</sup>, as does the [Vicnet Acceptable Use Policy](#) and [Vicnet Disclaimer](#). These may change without notice. It is the responsibility of all users of mc<sup>2</sup> to be aware of the latest changes to these documents.

**Note that mc<sup>2</sup> is only to be used in the [spirit in which it is intended](#).** Any breach of the Code of Conduct, as well as harassment or abuse, whether physical, verbal or written of other users or Vicnet staff members, will result in the immediate cancellation of Vicnet and mc<sup>2</sup> services to the individual, Community Group and/or its Owner/Moderators. Any illegal activities will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

It is the responsibility of the mc<sup>2</sup> Group Owner/Moderators to ensure that they and their members do not break the Code of Conduct in any way, including, but not limited to: sending **SPAM** (see **Vicnet Spam Policy**), harassing others, posting inappropriate content, breaching **copyright**, storing files containing offensive or illegal material, knowingly spreading **viruses**, conducting **illegal activities** online etc.

## Who may use mc<sup>2</sup> ?

My Connected Community (mc<sup>2</sup>) is provided by the Victorian Government in Australia, as a free community resource for the benefit of all Victorians, both community groups and individuals (see the **About** section for the program background).

**Note that mc<sup>2</sup> is only to be used in the spirit in which it is intended:** as a resource to establish genuine and viable communities of members, interacting regularly online. Groups should not be established with the sole aim of promoting another Website (i.e., with few members or discussion, just a link to another site), nor just as a way to get extra free webspace for an individual.

**Online groups created at this site must be community based groups.** Community based groups include special interest groups such as sporting clubs or hobby groups, support groups, not-for-profit organisations, local government entities, state government agencies and peak bodies. mc<sup>2</sup> also works with **Project Partners** to target specific sectors of the Victorian community:

- people with disabilities
- senior Victorians
- people from non-English speaking backgrounds
- low income earners (e.g. those outside the education system and workforce)

**mc<sup>2</sup> is a non-commercial webspace.** It is not intended that any group or individual use mc<sup>2</sup> services solely for **commercial gain** or business purposes. mc<sup>2</sup> does not allow the use of the webpage generator, hosting, or any other services or features for commercial purposes. For example, as a free vehicle for sales or promotion of products or services; or onselling the freely provided mc<sup>2</sup> services etc. If you have a commercial interest or business, you may **contact us** for clarification.

Advertising material (e.g. banner ads) or promotion of commercial activities (e.g. links to commercial sites) are permitted on your web site and/or in your community, however, as long as your organisation or content is not developed *solely* for commercial gain. E.g. a non-profit organisation can recognise and acknowledge their sponsors, or endeavour to promote its fundraising activities. Be aware, however, that excessive commercial content can detract from the value of your community message. Note also, that any attempt by a purely commercial organisation to profit from the free resources provided at mc<sup>2</sup>, may result in the removal of such content, without notice. If you are unsure, **contact us** for clarification.

To use mc<sup>2</sup>, you must complete the **registration** process by providing us with current, complete and accurate information as prompted by the Registration Form and nominating a **login** and **password** (*Registration Data*). See also **Security: Logging in & Out**. You agree to maintain and update this Registration Data as required to keep it current, complete and accurate. E.g. if you **change your email address**, you should update it via **My Profile**. It is a requirement that all owners of Groups/Communities at mc<sup>2</sup> maintain a current **email address** as a contact point, visible on the **Group Info** page. This address may be used by both potential members wishing to join a group, as well as by mc<sup>2</sup> staff who need to contact a group owner, e.g. to inform them their group is about to be removed as *inactive*.

## Removal of Inappropriate Content

**mc<sup>2</sup> reserves the right to remove (without notice) any user or group in breach of the Code of Conduct, and any content deemed inappropriate**

For quality control purposes, mc<sup>2</sup> Staff also reserve the right to **remove** without notice any community that allows its members to breach the Code of Conduct (including, but not limited to: promoting or carrying out illegal activities, **hacking**, any pornography (including **child pornography**), breaches of **copyright**, spreading **viruses**, offensive material etc.).

What sort of content is inappropriate? Material usually referred to as pornography, adult content, violence, hate, aggression, gambling, warez or copyright violation, etc. Also material of blatantly commercial nature, get-rich-quick schemes, temporary or half-finished sites. This material, and any links to it, may be removed.

## Removal of Inactive Groups

**A group with few members &/or little current content, is not an active community, and is subject to removal.** We want mc<sup>2</sup> to be a vibrant community discussion space, so to maintain the usefulness of mc<sup>2</sup> as a community resource, mc<sup>2</sup> Staff reserve the right to **remove inactive communities**, without notice. If you establish temporary groups for testing purposes, that is fine, but you should delete them when they no longer serve a useful purpose. This helps us maintain mc<sup>2</sup> as a quality community resource of active groups. To avoid removal, you must provide **content** for your group and attract **members**. See **How to make your group a success**

## Bandwidth & File Sizes

Primarily, mc<sup>2</sup> seeks to encourage and enable online interaction between Victorian community members, e.g. via the use of Chat, Forum, Links etc. **mc<sup>2</sup> was not established with the sole intention of creating an international file server.** Intensive use of the file management system by some users, can impact on the quality of service we are able to provide to all users. mc<sup>2</sup> **webpace** should not be used to host files that primarily appear on other websites, e.g. frequently **downloaded** signature files [small images] for forums on other websites.

Consequently, to ensure the continued efficient functioning of mc<sup>2</sup>, and to preserve bandwidth and webpace for all users; **mc<sup>2</sup> staff reserve the right to impose a limit on the maximum permissible file size and to remove without notice, files exceeding this limit; or any file using excessive bandwidth.** The current maximum permissible individual filesize is 3Mb, but as this may change (according to available bandwidth), users should check the current limit on the advanced help page: **Can't upload/post a large file?**

## Children

**The owner of any groups or communities at mc<sup>2</sup> must be an adult** (18+ years), even if the group is established for the use of young people. Any group behaving irresponsibly or owned by a minor is subject to removal, without notice, by Vicnet &/or mc<sup>2</sup> staff.

**Children who use mc<sup>2</sup> must be supervised at all times.** Be aware that if children post images of themselves, school records, their address, or any other identifying information, it could potentially be used against them in a harmful manner, e.g. by paedophiles.

Note that whilst **Internet Content Hosts (ICHs)** (such as **Vicnet**) are not required to actively review, monitor or classify the content hosted on their service, they have an obligation to report material they have reasonable grounds to believe is **child pornography** or child abuse material

to the Australian Federal Police (AFP) - see [Attorney-General's Department](#).

As detailed in the [Disclaimer](#), the My Connected Community Secretariat accepts no responsibility for the behaviour of individuals who access any of the interactive features of the mc<sup>2</sup> website, including any chat room. This includes any liability in respect of their actions, comments and/or opinions, which are solely their own and not those of Vicnet.

As mc<sup>2</sup> is a multi-purpose community Website, some groups may contain content only suitable for adults. Group owners should indicate this on the [Group Info](#) page, and make the group *Members Only*.

## Netiquette

### The rules of politeness & acceptable behaviour on the Internet...

[Internet chat](#) and online communication via email, Forums etc. is mostly a very enjoyable experience. It allows you to meet many people from all countries around the world. This is a place to make new friends or simply talk on subjects which interest you. You are expected to follow simple guidelines as to how you present your views appropriately. Respecting others, and becoming familiar with the set conventions, will make your online experience a lot easier and more enjoyable.

Talking in a chat room is like walking into a room full of strangers, so the normal social conventions apply. You wouldn't normally run in shouting, swearing and being abusive, so make sure you don't here either.

Be polite, welcome people entering the chat room or introduce yourself to those already in there. You can also tell others a little about yourself via a [Guestbook](#) entry or your [personal webpage](#). You don't necessarily need to use proper punctuation or capital letters in a chat room, but be aware that typing everything in CAPITAL LETTERS means SHOUTING. Be careful you don't accidentally hit the Caps Lock key.

Differences of opinion are normal, and vibrant, robust discussion can be stimulating, but don't descend to personal attacks or react in an angry or impulsive manner. The key to good Netiquette is **respect**:

- Respect the right of others to have different opinions
- Respect their rights of [privacy](#) and confidentiality
- Respect people's time and [bandwidth](#) - do you have a valuable contribution to make, or are you just wasting people's time? Does your comment further the discussion in a positive way?
- Be aware that comments made in the Forum will go out by email to everyone on the mailing list for that group. Whilst it is possible for a group owner or moderator to delete the Forum message from the webpage, the original email messages cannot be recalled
- Be forgiving of other people's mistakes
- Don't start or contribute to electronic flame wars (flaming is making personal attacks, using threatening or emotive language, or making inflammatory remarks)

If anyone gets carried away and breaks any of the rules, it is the responsibility of the Community Owner to eject them from the chat room or even ban them from that community. mc<sup>2</sup> and Vicnet also reserve the right to ban or suspend anyone from using mc<sup>2</sup> for inappropriate or offensive behaviour, or anyone in breach of the Code of Conduct.

**You must not use mc<sup>2</sup> for any purpose that is unlawful or prohibited by this Code of Conduct.** All users of mc<sup>2</sup> must not use mc<sup>2</sup> or Vicnet services, directly or indirectly, to:

- Organise or engage in any **illegal activities** whatsoever
- Defame, abuse, harass, stalk or threaten others
- Propagate hatred &/or racial vilification
- Knowingly cause harm or distress to others
- Breach any **copyright** or other laws or regulations

I.e., in addition to upholding this Code of Conduct, you are responsible for adhering to all local and national laws that pertain to your location.

Regarding **Online Safety** e.g. for **Kids in Chat Rooms**, see:

- **Content Regulation & Code of Conduct**
- **Safe Surfing Software**
- **Content Regulation Websites**

## Privacy

**To use all the interactive features of this site, you need to register as a member of mc<sup>2</sup>. In this process, you may need to provide us with your email address, so you should be aware of our **Privacy Policy**.**

With whom may your information be shared? Your **email address** will be visible to all other members of any mc<sup>2</sup> group you join. It will also be attributed to any messages you post, and may be used by mc<sup>2</sup> project staff to contact you, from time-to-time. We won't share your information with third parties interested in e-mailing you promotional offer e-mails.

As a general rule, mc<sup>2</sup> will not disclose any of your personally identifiable information except when we have your permission or under special circumstances, such as when we believe in good faith that the law requires it.

mc<sup>2</sup> staff do not routinely monitor the details of individual members, or the content of mc<sup>2</sup> communities or chat sessions. Appropriate staff do, however, retain the right to access all data stored on the mc<sup>2</sup> server(s); though this is only carried out for technical, statistical or administrative purposes; or when assisting members who have specifically requested help. All **mc<sup>2</sup> email** (and any files transmitted with it) is **CONFIDENTIAL** and intended only for members of the mc<sup>2</sup> group it is directly addressed to. Members must not refer to the contents outside the group, or forward on any part of the email to non-members. If you are not the intended recipient you must not use, disclose, distribute or rely on any information or advice contained in mc<sup>2</sup> email or any **attachment(s)**. Please notify the sender immediately, advise the **Vicnet Help Desk**, then delete the email.

Any personal or sensitive information contained in mc<sup>2</sup> email and attachments must be handled in accordance with the **Victorian Information Privacy Act 2000**, the **Health Records Act 2001** or the **Privacy Act 1988** (Commonwealth), as applicable.

If mc<sup>2</sup> staff or group owners or moderators become aware that a member has breached confidentiality, they may then **remove** the offender from the group, or ask mc<sup>2</sup> staff to **ban** them from using mc<sup>2</sup> entirely. It is the role of the group owners and moderators to ensure that group members behave responsibly, and are aware of, and abide by, the Code of Conduct.

**Read the detailed **Privacy Policy** online: [mc2.vicnet.net.au/privacy](http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/privacy)**

## Email

All users of mc<sup>2</sup> must NOT use mc<sup>2</sup> or Vicnet services to:

- Send emails or post messages, which are unlawful, excessively large, obscene, vilifying, or contain defamatory or libellous content.
- Send unsolicited advertisements ("**SPAM**"), chain letters or similar e-mails.
- Use Vicnet as a relay for e-mail without Vicnet's express permission.
- Modify the sender, time, server or other header information of e-mails.
- Send large numbers of e-mail to one address with the purpose of interfering with the use of the address.
- Forward confidential mc<sup>2</sup> mail to non-members - see [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Help with Email](#)
- [mc<sup>2</sup> WebMail](#)
- [Get a Free Email Address](#)
- More about [Email](#) and [SPAM](#) in the mc<sup>2</sup> Glossary
- See also: [Vicnet SPAM Policy](#)
- Note that information contained in mc<sup>2</sup> email (and **attachments**) must legally be handled in accordance with Privacy Acts - see the [Privacy](#) section of this Code of Conduct, and the [Privacy Policy](#).

## Illegal Activities

**You must not use mc<sup>2</sup> for any purpose that is unlawful or prohibited by the Code of Conduct.**

Specifically, all users of mc<sup>2</sup> must not use Vicnet or mc<sup>2</sup> Sites/Services, directly or indirectly, to:

- Organise, aid or promote any criminal activities whatsoever, including, but not limited to: the use of violence; use or sale of illegal drugs or banned substances; production or deployment of bombs and explosives; planning or carrying out fraud, theft, robberies or other crimes.
- Engage in or carry out any illegal activities including, but not limited to: [cracking](#), probing, or analysing security systems.
- Host, link to or promote any offensive or illegal content, such as [child pornography](#)
- Promote or send surveys, contests, pyramid schemes, chain letters, bulk email, junk email, **SPAM** or any duplicative or unsolicited messages (commercial or otherwise).
- Knowingly propagate computer **Viruses**.
- Attempt to crash or interfere with any computer systems.
- Defame, abuse, harass, stalk or threaten others.
- Propagate hatred &/or racial vilification.
- Create a false identity for the purpose of misleading others.
- Knowingly cause harm to others.
- Breach any **Copyright** or laws by uploading, storing, broadcasting, publishing or delivering any information, in any format [text, images, audio, video etc.].
- Breach the Copyright Act.
- Breach the Broadcasting Services Amendment (Online Services) Act 1999.
- Breach the Trade Practices Act.
- Breach the Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) (Enforcement) Act (Vic) 1995.

In addition to upholding this Code of Conduct, you are responsible for adhering to all local and national laws that pertain to your location.

You may not use Vicnet or mc<sup>2</sup> Sites/Services in any manner that could damage, disable, overburden, or impair them (or any network(s) connected to them); or interfere with any other party's use and enjoyment.

## Use of Logos

Impersonating a Vicnet or mc<sup>2</sup> employee, agent, manager, technician, host, or another member is forbidden. If you wish to create an mc<sup>2</sup> Group/Community or Webpage in the name of an already existing organisation, **you must have legitimate authority to use or associate an organisations name and/or logo with your online activity**. I.e. you cannot publish online in an official capacity (seemingly speaking on behalf of an organisation), unless authorised to do so by the organisation concerned. You must not use mc<sup>2</sup> to mislead, deceive or defraud. See also: **Illegal Activities**. Be aware that most organisations will not allow use of their **images** or **logo** without specific permission. See also: **Copyright**.

## Copyright

**All users of mc<sup>2</sup> must respect the intellectual property rights of others. Nobody is allowed to use mc<sup>2</sup> or Vicnet services to breach any copyright or laws by uploading, storing, broadcasting, transmitting, publishing or delivering any information, in any format [text, images, audio, video etc.]. Material that is known to breach copyright will be removed without notice.**

Regarding your own content, copyright protection is free and automatic. It is not ideas, but their expression, that are protected by copyright law. The intention is that nobody should profit unfairly from the work of others, by stealing and reproducing their work, then passing it off as their own. Thus copyright protection provides an incentive for creators to continue to create new materials.

Australian Copyright law automatically protects intellectual property. This means that if you create a webpage, or upload a document or images, that are stored &/or published on the mc<sup>2</sup> server; you still own the copyright. It is not automatically assumed by mc<sup>2</sup> or group owners. mc<sup>2</sup> does not claim ownership of the materials you provide. However, by posting, uploading, inputting, providing or otherwise submitting content, you are granting mc<sup>2</sup> permission to use it as appropriate, including publishing your name in connection with your submission. This includes the license rights for mc<sup>2</sup> to make it available to others, in accordance with the functionality of the mc<sup>2</sup> website.

Your work may be **accessed** by other members of the group, or, indeed, by the public [in the case of a "Public" group or webpage], but copyright is still held by the original author, so **permission** would need to be sought before anyone else can **reproduce** any work, which should still be attributed to the originator.

Note that mc<sup>2</sup> staff and group owners & moderators do, however, have a right to **remove** anything if necessary by law, or if it breaks the Code of Conduct.

Vicnet retains copyright of all of the mc<sup>2</sup> website that is directly created by its staff and contractors, e.g. **photos**, text of **Help pages**, mc<sup>2</sup> programming code etc. (excluding the contents of members individual webspace and communities, as referred to above).

Copyright of **mc<sup>2</sup> training materials** also resides with Vicnet. No portion may be reproduced or altered without written consent of Vicnet. Apart from fair dealing for the purpose of private

study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under copyright legislation, no part may be reproduced or used for any commercial purposes whatsoever.

See also:

## Security

We take all reasonable precautions to ensure that data stored on the mc<sup>2</sup> server(s) is secure. However, it is not possible to guarantee the *absolute* security of *anything* on the Internet. You should be aware that there are always risks in transmitting or storing information electronically. We recommend that you think very carefully before posting anything anywhere on the Internet that is highly confidential or sensitive - there can be no such thing as *total* security.

## Login

It is a security requirement that each user identify themselves to the system at the start of every session by **logging in**; then **log out** if they end their session, or if the user changes. See also: [Login Help](#)

Each user is uniquely identified by their **login** details. Users nominate these during the initial mc<sup>2</sup> **registration** process, by choosing their own **login** and **password**.

To protect your account, we need to confirm your identity, so **each time you use mc<sup>2</sup>, you must login**. This enables the system to correctly identify you and present you, and only you, with access to your personal information ([My Office](#), [My Profile](#)) and group membership details ([My Communities](#) etc.).

Some features are only be available to Group Members (e.g. in [Members Only](#) groups), so you need to login to access them. See: [Public / Read Only / Members Only Groups](#)

Don't want to login? Then think about this - the login process is not only a requirement of using mc<sup>2</sup>, it is a safeguard to verify who you are, and protects your privacy! You *can* login as an anonymous *Guest*, but this only gives you access to very limited features. See [Guest Login](#) for details.

## Cookies

mc<sup>2</sup> uses cookies for security purposes, to help protect the contents of [Members Only](#) groups. This helps ensure that when you login to mc<sup>2</sup> we can confirm that you are a member of certain groups, and that activity generated under your login identity, is actually coming from the computer you logged in with. This helps stop somebody else pretending to be you.

## Log Out: Ending Your Session

For your own security, you should **Log Out** when you have finished using mc<sup>2</sup>, or when you leave your computer. Use the link which appears at the top right of any screen (if you're currently logged in). Once you have done this, nobody else can use your identity at mc<sup>2</sup> to submit messages or alter content. They will need to Login again as themselves. This is a security measure to protect your privacy.


If you are using a **public or shared computer**, you may also wish to **clear the history** and **close your browser window** when you leave the **keyboard**. For more details, see: [using a public or shared computer](#)

For security purposes, you will **automatically be logged out after approximately 2 hours of inactivity**. To resume usage, just **login** again. This provides a level of security, e.g. for shared locations, where other users could access your data or operate as you online, if you leave the machine unattended for a period of time, and have forgotten to log out first.

It is your responsibility to ensure the security of your computer and **browser**. As well as installing and updating **virus** protection, it is also advisable to keep up to date with **Critical Security Updates** for your computer. Do not disclose your mc<sup>2</sup> login password to anyone, and be aware of the **Code of Conduct re Security**.

## Password Security

Do not disclose your mc<sup>2</sup> **password** (or **login**) to anyone - you are responsible for any activities that occur with its use! You must not attempt to gain unauthorized access to mc<sup>2</sup>. If you think your password may have become known to others, you can change your password by going to **My Profile**. If you have forgotten your password, we can email it to you, see: **Forgotten password**

Extra **password protection** is available for the chatroom, on request [to reduce the risk of non-members using third party software, e.g. **mIRC**, as a "back door" to enter the chatroom]. **mc<sup>2</sup> users must not compromise security by making anyone aware of any passwords**. Anyone found breaching security will be banned from using mc<sup>2</sup>. Group owners can request mc<sup>2</sup> staff to change chatroom passwords if they suspect that there is any security breach. To increase security for your webspace, you can use the "**password protection**" facility for folders/directories in the "**Group Files**" area [where owners/moderators store files], as well as on your own "**My Files**" area. If you do not password protect your files, they may be found and accessed by **Search Engines**, such as **Google**. Vicnet also offers an  **.htpasswd encoder for encrypting passwords**

## Viruses

Whilst we are constantly reviewing our own security procedures at mc<sup>2</sup>, we cannot protect you from viruses you may pick up from other sources. mc<sup>2</sup> strongly advise that everyone installs, runs and frequently updates a virus checking program on their own computer. You must update this several times a week, to effectively protect you from the latest Internet threats. Also be aware that not all viruses can be detected and cleaned. There is a risk involved whenever you access the Internet, or download email and **attachments** to your computer, or send email attachments to others, and that, as stated in the **Liability** section, neither mc<sup>2</sup> nor Vicnet are responsible for any damages caused by your decision to do so.

For more detailed info, see the section on  **Viruses**

## Content Regulation

The Broadcasting Services Amendment (Online Services) Act 1999 became effective on January 1, 2000. In accordance with amended Australian Government legislation, Vicnet is now obliged to notify users within Australia about issues relating to Internet content. See Vicnet's **Content Regulation & Filtering** page, for full details.

Any Australian may complain to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) about illegal or offensive Internet content at the **ACMA's website**. The ACMA investigates complaints to assess whether the content is 'prohibited' as defined in Schedule 5 to the Broadcasting Services Act 1992.

## Child Pornography

Note that whilst **Internet Content Hosts (ICHS)** (such as **Vicnet**) are not required to actively review, monitor or classify the content hosted on their service, they have an obligation to report material they have reasonable grounds to believe is child pornography or child abuse material to the Australian Federal Police (AFP) - see **Attorney-General's Department**.

Users of Internet Explorer can change various basic browser settings to control what Web content is displayed, in an attempt to protect children from accessing adult content. Go to the *Tools* menu and select *Internet Options* then *Content &/or Security*. For more comprehensive solutions, however, you will need to purchase and install some form of **content filtering software**.

## Filtering Content

Web content filtering software can "block" access to known pornographic Web sites and other objectionable content (such as racist and profane Web sites). Some filtering software will also block access to other online resources, such as Web-based chat forums and certain newsgroups, and prevent file downloads. Note, however, that no product is perfect - some sites will be unintentionally blocked, whilst some slip through that shouldn't. Filtering Software is no substitute for education, personal judgement and parental supervision. To ensure safe-surfing, you should also instal, run and frequently update a **virus checking program** on your computer.

There are various ways to attempt to filter out adult content on the Web. However, this raises some issues:

- Who decides what you see and what you don't?
- Can a filter really make the Internet experience "safe" for kids?
- Does it give you a false sense of security?
- Do you know or control what sites are "blocked"?
- Can any software adequately replace parental guidance or supervision?

See: **Content Regulation & Safe Surfing Software** in the mc<sup>2</sup> Links Section for **filtering software** and **content regulation websites**

## Disclaimer

**All responsibility for the content of each community at mc<sup>2</sup> lies with the Community Owners/Moderators, who have administrative rights to edit and delete the contents of their own online community.**

Community Owners/Moderators are required to agree to and uphold this Code of Conduct before creating any online group at mc<sup>2</sup> and are liable for all group activities and content. Owners & Moderators are also required to ban from their areas any members who violate this Code of Conduct, and must remove any offensive or inappropriate content.

**Vicnet / mc<sup>2</sup> staff do not routinely monitor or review live chat sessions.** It is the responsibility of the owner/moderators of each community to do this. Be aware that although the dialogue in chat sessions is not routinely recorded by mc<sup>2</sup> staff, the technology exists for individual users to log the content of chat sessions. Any log or transcript of a chat session is CONFIDENTIAL and intended only for members of the mc<sup>2</sup> group in which the chat occurred. See **Keeping a record of the Chat**

Vicnet accepts no responsibility whatsoever for the behaviour of individuals who access any of the interactive features of the **mc<sup>2</sup> site**, including any chat room. This includes any liability in respect of their actions, comments and/or opinions, which are solely their own and not those of Vicnet.

**You are responsible for any actions you may take based on advice or information you receive online.**

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