

Pros and Cons of Internet

written by Natalie Kramar

There is hardly any other invention that can match internet in the impact it has on the world. Since its advent in the end of the 20th century, it has revolutionized the way we produce, share and retrieve information in every field of human activity, from everyday gossip to international trade. While internet provides us with boundless opportunities for communication, research and business, it also has a number of disadvantages primarily associated with users' security and well-being.

Undoubtedly, the major advantage of internet is the overwhelming scope of information it opens to us. Whether you are interested in the weather forecast for tomorrow or in the history of Egypt, you can get what you need in just a few clicks. Internet has drastically changed the way business is done by bringing together producers and customers, employers and employees, company owners and investors from all over the world. Online business is thriving, saving us the trouble of going to brick-and-mortar stores and saving the businessmen a great deal of money they would otherwise spend on facilities maintenance. Another advantage of internet is enabling instantaneous communication between people in distant parts of the world, thus fostering international cooperation and cultural understanding. Moreover, internet is an endless source of entertainment to fit even the most sophisticated tastes.

However, all these incredible (and incredibly accessible) benefits come at a price. The ease of retrieving information from the web turned internet into an unintended "accomplice" in numerous crimes, such as cyberterrorism, financial frauds, and piracy. It often happens that users' personal information is leaked due to deficiencies in website security. Furthermore, internet hosts a lot of pornographic and violent content that can be particularly traumatizing for children who are not protected from it in any way. There is one more serious crime internet commits: it kills our time. Tons of time that could be spent on our families, work, travelling, volunteering...but are instead wasted on scrolling through Facebook and posting sarcastic comments. Many young people choose to trade in their real life for an illusory world where they have thousands of friends and followers instead of building meaningful relationships offline.

There is no denial that internet is one of the greatest inventions of the humanity (unless you are a 70-year-old grumbler). It is a gold mine of information and resources that benefit everyone, from a freshman student to a billionaire CEO. However, every user should be aware of the risks internet poses for the security of their data. It is equally important that people set their priorities right and don't mix up virtual world with real life.