

Samuelson-Glushko Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic

Clinique d'intérêt publique et de politique d'Internet du Canada Samuelson-Glushko

Did You Know?

XR Technologies and Privacy for Kids!

Imagine stepping into a world where anything you dream of can become real - from fighting dragons to exploring outer space. This world is made possible by something called XR technologies, which include cool gadgets like VR headsets and AR glasses. But as we embark on these incredible adventures, there's something super important we need to talk about: keeping our personal information safe. Let's dive into what you need to know.



Keeping Your Secrets Safe in the Digital World



Tiny Details Matter: VR headsets and AR glasses are cool to play videogames and explore the digital world, but they are also like little detectives. They notice the smallest things about how we move or what we look at. And just like in a game, these clues can tell a lot about us. They can learn about us just by looking at our eyes! They can guess what we like, or even how we're feeling, just by watching how our pupils change.



Not Just About You: When you're using these gadgets, they're not only paying attention to you. They can also pick up information about anyone who's around you, including your friends and family. It's like having a superpower that sees everything, but we have to use it wisely. These gadgets can collect a lot of information, more than ever before. And when it comes to kids, this is super important to think about, especially at school or the doctor's office.



Understanding the Risks: Sometimes, it's hard to see why sharing our info might not be a good idea. But just like in video games, sharing too much can lead to unexpected challenges.





Making Choices: Often, these gadgets ask if it's okay to collect information about us. But deciding what's okay and what's not can be a big decision, especially for young people like you. You should talk to a trusted adult before agreeing to let your new headset collect information while you play.



Growing Up with Technology: As we grow, we're learning and changing a lot. Experts are thinking about how these gadgets might affect our journey, from how we see the world to how we make friends.



Ads Know Too Much? These gadgets can use what they learn about us to show ads that they think we'll like. But sometimes, we want to keep our likes and dislikes to ourselves.



Your Digital Footprint: The information you share now can stick around for a long time. It's like leaving footprints in the digital sand that show where you've been and what you've liked.

Tips for Exploring the XR World Safely

Learn Together: Talk with your parents and family about the privacy settings on these gadgets and check them out together.

Balance Is Key: Make sure to spend some time away from screens, exploring the real world and other hobbies.

Remember, in this amazing digital universe, you're the hero of your own story. Let's make sure it's a story full of adventure, discovery, and safety!





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