

Good morning. First, I would like to thank the Commission for giving me the opportunity today to provide input on green spaces and several other important issues of concern.

As founder and CEO of SurfMonkey.com, I have been working for more than four years on ways to safely open up the Internet to children. The Internet is clearly the most comprehensive and useful encyclopedia and educational resource that has ever been made available to children. It is also a tremendous communications vehicle and entertainment center.

I believe that we have a duty as parents, and as society as a whole, to foster the first Internet generation of children; enabling them to reap the full benefits of what this outstanding resource has to offer. More importantly, as a technology company providing solutions to this market, it is our corporate responsibility to provide parents and children with the necessary safety tools they need. Furthermore, we intend to license SurfMonkey technology to help any company that is involved in online communication with children.

Filtering out inappropriate content from web pages is just the first step. As the Commission has already heard, there are many different filtering solutions now available on the market. Indeed, we at SurfMonkey.com have filed a patent on our own filtering technology that combines blocked and approved lists on both the client and the server sides with in-page, on-the-fly techniques. I believe that our SurfMonkey.com technology offers the most efficient and effective filtering mechanism available today. It is important to note, because of cost implications to users, that we can provide a filtering capability to potentially millions of children from a single server.

In many ways filtering technology is the easiest issue to address. The simplest way to protect children from inappropriate content is to block them from accessing the Internet. The challenge that I have been working on with the team at SurfMonkey.com, is to open up the best of the Internet to children and make the experience fun, safe and easy. I believe we have a responsibility to provide children with their own safe email, chat,

bulletin boards, instant messenger, videophone and all the other marvelous capabilities that the Internet offers adults.

I would like to address five steps I feel are critical to safely opening up the Internet to children. I would also like to make sure the Commission understands that each of these steps is technically feasible; some are available today and others are in active development and will be available from SurfMonkey.com in the near future:

**1. Guide children to the good not just away from the bad:**

- Provide directories linking children to the very best entertainment in the form of games, music, cartoons, videos as well as homework helpers. Quality is more important than quantity when it comes to selecting sites and we at SurfMonkey.com believe it is important to have live editors and reviewers check each site to make sure that they are appropriate and valuable to children.

**2. Provide a safe browser package that children choose to use:**

- Make the browsing experience more fun and entertaining. By integrating 3D animations, sound and special effects into the browser, we can make the whole Internet experience more fun and entertaining, even when children are waiting for the next page to download. Having the talking, animated monkey read the email and other messages out loud to the children makes the whole experience more fun and actually helps children who are still learning to read.
- Provide convenient access to everything that children are interested in from one convenient launch pad. By offering direct links to the children's selected favorites, the best sites directories, email, chat, bulletin boards and other community features from the browser itself, we can make sure that kids can always access them quickly and easily.
- Provide help systems and support systems that are designed and oriented towards children to make the Internet more easily accessible.

**3. Enable children to use the Internet to talk to friends and at the same time allow parents to control communication with strangers:**

- Communication with strangers is the most dangerous Internet activity for children. We at SurfMonkey.com have been working for several years on the technical platform that enables parents to define a list of approved CyberFriends that a child can communicate with and then enable parents to restrict and control any communication with strangers.
- We believe it is important to let children harness the full potential of the Internet. SurfMonkey.com enables children to communicate with friends on their parentally approved CyberFriends list via their own chat room, email, bulletin boards, instant messenger and videophone.

**4. Provide parents with easy-to-use yet comprehensive set of controls:**

- **Controlling what children see** - With our technology, parents can give their child access to the whole web except for a blocked list of sites, or they can choose to restrict access only to a SurfMonkey.com's list of approved sites. The parent can also customize the blocked and approved lists for each child individually or for the family as a whole.
- **Controlling who they talk to** - By adding individuals to the child's CyberFriends list, the parent can select who the child can communicate with online. Email from strangers not on the list is locked until the parent approves it, or they have the option delete the message. Parents can also choose whether to allow the child access to public monitored chat rooms or bulletin boards.
- **Controlling how children talk online** - The parent can select whether each child has access to chat rooms, email, bulletin boards, instant messenger or videophone. If they want to, parents can mix and match which features to provide each child in the family to account for age differences or interests.
- **Controlling how long and at what time they go online** - With our technology parents will be able to control the number of hours each child can spend online each day, week or month. They can also control what time of

day the child has access to the Internet and can specify a window of time that the child is allowed online.

- **Controlling all Internet applications** - In addition to browsers, many software applications today, including many games and applications that are of particular interest to children, have built-in Internet access capabilities that provide web browsing, live chat and other features. Our technology enables parents to extend the control beyond the Surf Monkey Browser to Internet Explorer, Netscape, AOL and other applications requesting an Internet connection.
- **Helping parents make the right choices for their child** - We recognize that the number of choices they need to make in order to protect their children online overwhelms many parents. To this end, we are providing a setup wizard with expert-selected settings for children of different ages.

**5. Enable children to take their browser settings and parental controls with them when they move from PC to PC, ISP to ISP.**

- Parental controls are not much use if the child can go to their friend's house, school, or some other PC, and get online with unrestricted access. We've been working to design a system whereby a child can logon to any Surf Monkey-enabled PC and find the same parental control profile, their own personalized chat rooms, email and other community features that they would have on their own home PC.

Providing solutions in these five areas truly takes us beyond simple filtering and enables us to safely open up the Internet to our children. Our strategy to license our technology will help countless other companies that want to ensure that children are safe while engaged in online communications.

I believe that the Internet has a tremendous potential to link and unite children from all corners of the world. Never before have they been able to play and make friends with other children living beyond the boundaries of their home or school. To this end, all our SurfMonkey.com site lists, technologies and products are designed to be available in languages including French, Spanish, German, Japanese and Chinese as well as English.

Thank you again for this opportunity to present my findings and opinions on this important topic.