POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF THE INTERNET

Manzova A.S., Troushkova T.V.
Scientific supervisor - Associate professor Troushkova T.V.
Siberian Federal University

The world entered a new stage in its development in the information society. Today computer technology has become an integral part of our life of any person. Now the informatization of society and the global computer network Internet are being developed.

The Internet is a network that integrates local and global networks. These are interconnected computer systems, various computer services and various components (e-mail, newsgroups, chat rooms, etc.). The Internet is one of the major repositories in the world's resources. The Internet is a global system of interconnected computer networks that use the standard Internet Protocol Suite (TCP/IP) to serve billions of users worldwide. It is a network of networks that consists of millions of private, public, academic, business, and government networks of local to global scope that are linked by a broad array of electronic and optical networking technologies. The Internet carries a vast array of information resources and services, most notably the inter-linked hypertext documents of the World Wide Web (WWW) and the infrastructure to support electronic mail.

For some people the Internet is a place for entertainment, for others it is means of communication or a place of work, etc. In the Internet, everyone can find something what it is useful and interesting. The possibilities of World Wide Web are almost unlimited.

All the world population using the Internet can be divided into age groups. Among them young people are very important. Let's try to answer the question: "What is the impact of global network on modern youth?"To understand this we should consider all the positive and negative aspects of using the global network.

Let's look at the advantages of the Internet. The most important one is the accessibility of relevant information. Nowadays human activities are mainly focused on information processing and therefore intelligence, knowledge, level of information culture are crucial factors in professional growth and success. It is necessary be able to receive and correctly process the information from the Internet.

The advantages also include a large number of entertainment services: chat rooms, forums, online games, and so on.

The Internet is a means of communication. In the Internet many different programs, portals and projects are intended for communication between people located at great distance from each other. Recently, the so-called social networks have become very popular (My World, FaceBook, etc). Millions of people of different ages and professions spend their time on these sites. The network can find friends, love, work, hobbies...

In the Internet you can buy and sell. You're sitting at home, at your monitor screen, press a buttons and choose any purchase. And the goods will be delivered to your home. The payment can be made just through the Internet. To do this, use WebMoney.

One more advantage of the Internet is distance learning and many educational programs that help work and learn online. Everyone can find something he wants to learn. You can do it without leaving home and not spending much time and money. You not bad to learn any foreign language. Here are the sites with such programs: www.rosettastone.com, livemocha.com, www.english4today.com etc.

Now let's look at the negative aspects of the Internet. Some people after long using the Internet stop living the real world. They have virtual friends, virtual home and virtual money. This is especially threatening to adolescents, those users who have not yet fully formed mind, and they are more likely to succumb to such mental illness.

Another way the internet is being used is through online business (e-commerce and e-banking) transactions. One example of e-business is online shopping. This makes life easy for the individual as he or she does not have to leave and can pretty much purchase what ever they want right from their own home. Online shopping has also brought many companies a lot of money as millions of dollars are spent every year by consumers who are shopping online. For financial institutions it has made the transfer of money easier, convenient, faster and safer. The negative effect of online transactions and business activities is that the information attached to these transactions can fall into the hands of the wrong people. Issues of theft and privacy are important to consider when thinking about doing any type of online activity that requests personal information. This is one of the privacy violations that can take place and it definitely has many potentially devastating financial consequences.

The next negative factor of the Internet is its accessibility of information. The information may be different stored: erotic scenes, scenes with elements of violence, racism, and so on. Anyone can find information about making such a home-grenade or get drugs.

The anonymity and lack of consequence associated with social interaction on the Internet makes it an attractive medium for individuals who have difficulty expressing themselves in personal relationships of a traditional nature. The anonymity afforded by the Internet allows individuals to assume different identities and play-act in newsgroups or in e-mail. This is a difficult basis which forms meaningful relationships. Even when users do not misrepresent their personal histories (such as gender or age), the Internet makes it possible to "say" things to someone else without worrying about social niceties. Through Usenet and e-mail, one individual can "flame" another (issue a vitriolic statement) and never read any of the responses.

Copyright law has come under close scrutiny lately because anything that can be stored on a computer can quickly be copied. The publishing and music industries, which previously controlled how copies were made in order to control prices, are having a hard time dealing with the Internet's ability to quickly distribute illegal copies of products.

The Internet is filled with all sorts of viruses, worms and harmful programs. Infect your computer very easily. Though viruses can be received through other means like the use of floppy, a major source is the internet. Today computers are getting viruses that can destroy the computer's entire hard drive. A lot of people are not properly educated about such viruses and what actions they can take in order to be proactive against them.

The more aware we are of all the risks we face by using the internet the more we can make sure that we are taking all the necessary cautions. Preventive measures in relation to the internet need to be more fully researched and acted upon by teachers, parents and by the youth using the internet. Better monitoring and supervision by adults needs to be implicated. Providing individuals with the necessary counsel needs to start happening. Things like the fact that when giving personal information over the internet people should make sure the web site is protected with a recognizable security symbol. Then again it is also important that one understands that they are never fully protected because anyone may obtain a user's information if they know enough about computers.

Whether the Internet is bad or good or whether it should be used or not should be determined by the individual is a question. It is important that we bear in mind that the ongoing globalization will not be possible without the Internet. Of course, the Internet is very useful, but at the same time it is harmful. But in spite of everything it will continue to exist, and we will enjoy it, because there is always a need for new, relevant information, communication and entertainment.