

4. The problems related to Information Technology

1 Control of information

It is impossible to control information on the web, hence the development of cyber-criminality with paedophile and pornographic sites.

2 Pirates and hackers

- Computers are often contaminated by bugs, viruses, worms and Trojans which can destroy hard-disc drives. A protection with fire-walls and anti virus software is necessary.
- "Spams" (unsolicited e-mail messages) can jam people's in-boxes.
- It is impossible to be sure card payments are safe on the net, and users have to beware of hackers going "phishing" for data on their bank accounts.

3 Job cuts

Face to face jobs in travel agencies and stores are likely to disappear as companies move their businesses online and outsource services abroad.

4 Too much information

There is a risk of information overload, hence the need to check the accuracy of the data.

5 Risk of addiction

Spending time on the Internet can develop into an obsession. Webaholics become addicted to video games and to surfing on the net, risking obesity if they stop participating in sports.

6 Risk of marginalization

As time goes by, people who are not comfortable with computers risk becoming completely left out and isolated in this new digital society.

CAN YOU ANSWER?

1. Do you always feel safe on the net? Why?
2. Who may become marginalized in this new digital society?

Words, words, words...

2

fire-wall: pare-feu

hacker: pirate informatique

in-box: boîte de réception

to jam: bloquer

"phishing": piratage de données bancaires (cf. to fish !)

software: logiciel

spam: message indésirable/pourriel

worm/Trojan: virus

4

accuracy: exactitude

overload: surcharge

5

addiction: dépendance