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सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
ELECTRONICS AND  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

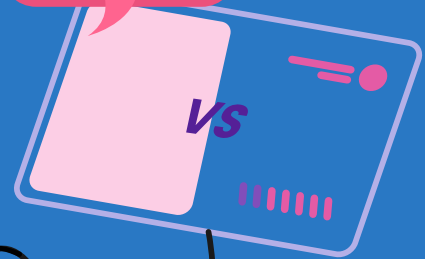


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# ONLINE GAMING



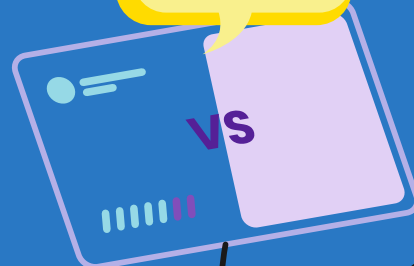
yeah !



LEVEL UP !!



Hello !



# Online gaming

Online gaming has become a widespread phenomenon, captivating millions of users and individuals around the world. It refers to the act of playing video games via internet connection, allowing individuals to connect and interact with other players virtually.

It involves a wide range of games, that includes various genres such as action, adventure, role-playing, strategy, and sports. Players can engage with these games using computers, gaming consoles, or mobile devices, entering virtual worlds where they undertake challenges, complete quests, and compete with others.

Lets understand the concept of online gaming, its features and the factors driving its appeal, advantages, disadvantages, threats, safe practices and also about gaming addiction. This will help us grasp the significance and impact of this digital form of entertainment.



## Advantages:

### Social Interaction:

Online gaming provides a platform for players to connect and interact with friends and other gamers from around the world. It fosters socialization, teamwork, and the development of new friendships.



### Skill Development:

Many online games require strategic thinking, problem-solving, and quick reflexes. Engaging in online gaming can enhance cognitive abilities, improve hand-eye coordination, and promote critical thinking skills.



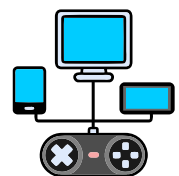
### Entertainment and Recreation:

Online gaming offers a form of entertainment and relaxation. It allows individuals to escape from daily stresses, immerse themselves in virtual worlds, and enjoy engaging experiences.



### Accessible and Convenient:

Online gaming is accessible and convenient, as it can be played on various devices, including computers, consoles, and mobile devices. Players can enjoy gaming at their own convenience, from the comfort of their homes.



### Global Community and Cultural Exchange:

Online gaming platforms bring together players from different cultures and backgrounds. It promotes diversity, cultural exchange, and the opportunity to connect with people from around the world.



## Disadvantages:



### Excessive Screen Time:

Spending excessive hours playing online games can lead to sedentary behavior and a lack of physical activity. It is important to balance gaming with other healthy activities to maintain overall well-being.



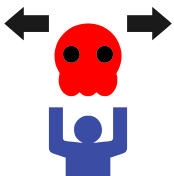
### Health Risks:

Prolonged gaming sessions can contribute to health issues such as eye strain, musculoskeletal problems, and sleep disturbances. Taking regular breaks, practicing proper ergonomics, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle are essential.



### Addiction and Dependency:

Online gaming addiction can negatively impact an individual's personal and academic/professional life. Excessive gaming can lead to neglecting responsibilities, strained relationships, and a decline in overall well-being.



### Online Harassment and Toxic Behavior:

Online gaming communities can sometimes harbor toxic behavior, cyberbullying, and harassment. Players need to be aware of these risks, report any instances of misconduct, and practice safe and respectful behavior themselves.

## Security Threats and Risks in Online Gaming Platforms:

### Account Hacking and Theft:

Online gaming accounts can be targeted by hackers aiming to gain unauthorized access, steal in-game currency or valuable items, or sell compromised accounts on the black market.

### Malware and Phishing Attacks:

Cybercriminals may use online gaming platforms to distribute malware or launch phishing attacks, attempting to steal personal information, login credentials, or financial data.

### Online Scams and Fraud:

Players may encounter scams, such as fake in-game item sales, fraudulent game currency offers, or phishing attempts disguised as official game communications. These scams can result in financial loss or account compromise.

### Inadequate Privacy and Data Protection:

Online gaming platforms may have vulnerabilities in their privacy and data protection practices, leading to the unauthorized access or misuse of personal information.

### Webcam Worries:

Any connected device—such as a webcam or audio device could be controlled by attackers and used to exploit users

### Hidden Fees:

Some online games use the "freemium" model, which means they give you some content for free, however they require you to pay to access other portions of the game.



# Security Measures during Online Gaming for Children and Adults:

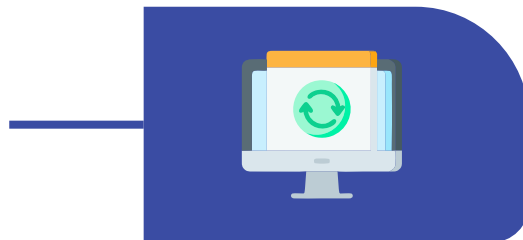
## Use Strong and Unique Passwords:

Create strong, unique passwords for gaming accounts, combining letters, numbers, and symbols. Enable two-factor authentication for an added layer of security.



## Regularly Update Software:

Keep gaming devices, operating systems, and gaming software up to date with the latest patches and security updates to protect against known vulnerabilities.



## Be wWary of Suspicious Links and Downloads:

Avoid clicking on suspicious links, downloading files from untrusted sources, or sharing personal information with unknown individuals.



## Install and update Antivirus Software:

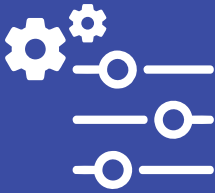
Utilize reputable antivirus software and ensure it is regularly updated to detect and prevent malware, phishing attempts, and other malicious activities.



## Protect your identity:

Do not use voice chat when playing an online game, Do not use a web-cam while playing an online game.



**Adjust Privacy Settings:**

Review and customize privacy settings within games and on gaming platforms to control who can interact with you, view your profile, and access personal information.

**Educate and Supervise Children:**

Teach children about online safety, responsible gaming habits, and the importance of not sharing personal information with strangers. Monitor their gaming activities and encourage open communication.

**Practice Safe Online Behavior:**

Be cautious while interacting with strangers online, avoid sharing personal information publicly, and report any instances of harassment or misconduct to game administrators.

**Beware of stranger danger :**

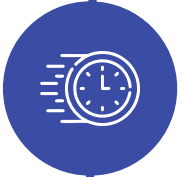
Never accept downloads from strangers. This includes cheat programs that may claim to help you perform better in the game, but really could be carrying malware.

**Set time limit:**

Always put a time limit on yourself for game playing with the permission from your elders/parents.

# Online gaming - Dos and Don'ts

## DO'S



### **Set time limits:**

Encourage children to have a healthy balance between gaming and other activities by setting reasonable time limits for gaming sessions. Ensure they also engage in physical activity, social interactions, and academics.



### **Play age-appropriate games:**

Guide children to play games that are suitable for their age group. Look for age ratings and content descriptors to ensure the game's appropriateness.



### **Encourage responsible gaming behavior:**

Teach children about good sportsmanship, fair play, and respecting others while gaming online. Emphasize the importance of treating fellow gamers with kindness and avoiding toxic behavior.



### **Use privacy settings:**

Help children understand and utilize privacy settings available in online gaming platforms to protect their personal information. Encourage them to limit communication and interactions to known friends or trusted individuals.



### **Monitor online interactions:**

Keep an eye on your child's online gaming activities. Be aware of who they are playing with and who they interact with in the gaming community. Encourage open communication so they feel comfortable sharing any concerns or issues they encounter.



### **Educate about online risks:**

Teach children about online safety, including the potential risks of sharing personal information, engaging with strangers, and clicking on suspicious links or downloads. Help them understand the importance of avoiding scams and protecting their privacy.





## DON'T'S

### **Don't neglect offline activities:**

Ensure that online gaming does not replace other important aspects of your child's life, such as schoolwork, physical exercise, hobbies, or face-to-face social interactions.



### **Don't share personal information:**

Instruct children to never share personal information, such as their full name, address, phone number, or school, while gaming online. This helps protect their privacy and ensures they don't become targets for malicious individuals.



### **Don't spend excessively:**

Teach children about responsible spending and the dangers of in-app purchases or micro-transactions. Set clear boundaries and guidelines regarding spending money on games.



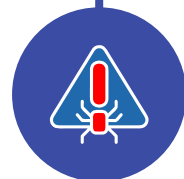
### **Don't engage in cyberbullying or toxic behavior:**

Make it clear to children that cyberbullying, harassment, or engaging in toxic behavior towards others is unacceptable. Encourage them to report any inappropriate behavior they witness and remind them to treat others with respect.



### **Don't download from untrusted sources:**

Teach children to avoid downloading games or modifications from untrusted sources, as they may contain malware or viruses. Stick to official app stores or trusted platforms for game downloads.



## Additional tips for parents:

- Make online gaming a family activity by playing video games together and agreeing upon what games can be played.
- Make sure you and your family agree what games can be played and that children understand why some games are allowed and others
- Teach your children to protect themselves remind them not to share personal information
- Read each games advice for parents and play the game yourself to help child and its appropriateness
- If your child comes to you with an issue, stay calm and listen without judging them and don't threaten to take away their devices.
- Discuss about tackling peer pressure and about responsible gaming time and behavior.
- Be sensitive and praise them when they share their online experiences with you

## Be a Digital Role Model



**While Gaming..  
Don't let the  
clock just tick by  
Be mindful and  
track your time**



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