

REGIONALNI CENTAR ZA TALENTE U VRANJU

**“BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU”  
„VELIKI BRAT TE POSMATRA”**

**AUTHOR: SANJA MILOŠEVIĆ**, IV/2 Gimnazija „Stevan Jakovljević”

**MENTOR: BILJANA PIPOVIĆ**, profesor engleskog jezika u Gimnaziji „Stevan Jakovljević” u Vlasotincu

***Content***

Abstract.....3

Introduction.....4

Report.....4

Aim.....4

Methods.....5

Results.....5-14

Results for females.....5-9

Results for males.....9-12

What is the privacy?.....14

Privacy on the Internet.....15

How to protect your privacy online?.....15-17

Conclusion.....17-18

Appendix A.....19-20

Sources.....21

## ABSTRACT

We live in the modern era today and that like everything else has its good and bad side. Wherever we look, we are surrounded by modern technology. There are cameras on every step - on the street, in schools, banks, building entrances... Although cameras exist in order to have positive aim such as stopping vandalism, burglaries and other bad things, they are often misused - to spy someone. Wherever we move, "they" are watching us. They are monitoring every step we take. It is worse than in Orwell's book "1984"! Spying in the past was very difficult. Eavesdropping needed good and very complicated equipment and a well trained team. But today it is much easier. Not only cameras are used for spying, but microphones, smart phones and computers. Whatever we do, we leave a trace behind us. For example, a lot of our personal information could be gathered only by taking a look at our browser history. Furthermore, we are not aware that we make our personal information easy accessible to everyone making them public on our profiles on social networks. In that way our personal information is now becoming public and available to everyone. Therefore privacy does not exist anymore. So whatever you do, be very careful! Your privacy is under surveillance! The aim of this essay is to raise people's awareness about their privacy and to prevent further breach of it.

*Key words:* privacy, personal information, modern technology, monitoring, spying, cameras

## REZIME

Mi živimo u modernom dobu što kao i sve ostale ima svoje dobre i loše strane. Gde god da pogledamo, okruženi smo modernom tehnologijom. Kamere postoje na svakom koraku – na ulici, u školama, u bankama, na ulazima zgrada... Premda kamere postoje da bi imale pozitivne ciljeve poput zaustavljanja vandalizma, pljački i drugih loših stvari, one se često zlorabljavaju – za špijuniranje. Gde god da krenemo, „oni” nas posmatraju. Nadgledaju svaki naš korak. Gore je nego u Orvelovoj knjizi „1984.”! Špijuniranje u prošlosti je bilo veoma teško. Za prisluškivanje je bila potrebna veoma složena oprema i čitav tim dobro treniranih ljudi. Ali je danas to mnogo lakše. Ne koriste se samo kamere za špijuniranje, već i mikrofoni, pametni telefoni i kompjuteri. Šta god da uradimo, ostavljamo trag za sobom. Na primer, naše lične informacije moguće je prikupiti samo bacivši pogled na istoriju našeg pretraživača. Štaviše, mi nismo svesni da naše informacije koje su javne na našim profilima na društvenim mrežama činimo lako dostupnim svima. Naše lične informacije sada postaju javne i dostupne svima. Zbog toga privatnost više ne postoji. Zato, šta god da radite, budite veoma pažljivi! Vaša privatnost se nadgleda! Cilj ovog eseja je da podigne ljudsku svest o njihovoj privatnosti i da spreči njeno dalje narušavanje.

*Ključne reči:* privatnost, lične informacije, moderna tehnologija, nadgledanje, špijuniranje, kamere

## INTRODUCTION



“On coins, on stamps, on the covers of books, on banners, on posters, and on the wrappings of a cigarette Packet — everywhere. Always the eyes watching you and the voice enveloping you. Asleep or awake, working or eating, indoors or out of doors, in the bath or in bed — no escape. **Nothing was your own except the few cubic centimeters inside your skull.**”- says George Orwell in his famous book ‘1984’. In this book, he describes a world where privacy does not exist. Big Brother is monitoring everyone and everything by using the ‘telescreen’. Whatever they do, wherever they go, Big Brother is watching them.

It seems that George Orwell gave us the right picture of what our world will become soon. Although everything was invented with a positive aim, people often misuse it. Would any scientist discover anything knowing that it might be misused? I think he/she wouldn't, because they do it in order to make people's life easier, not worse. As technology advances, the danger of abusing of it rises. Computer technology progresses, as well as the technology for so-called electronic monitoring and control individual behavior. People will soon feel the consequences of abusing it unless they try to stop it.

## REPORT

*Report on the survey carried out among the students in Grammar school ‘Stevan Jakovljevic’ on the topic ‘Big Brother is watching you’*

*Date:* 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015

### *Aim*

This is a brief report on the main goal of a survey carried out among the students in Grammar school ‘Stevan Jakovljevic’ on the topic ‘Big Brother is watching you’. All the questions are placed in six main groups.

The first group of questions (questions number 1, 2 and 3) refers to privacy in general. It is aimed at finding out whether the interviewees find the privacy a valuable thing or not, how they feel about the statement which claims that the privacy is dead and if it is dead at all, in their opinion, and if it is becoming more public by using the Internet, especially social networks.

The second one (questions number 4, 5, 6 and 7) is mostly about the Internet. It is aimed at finding out how often teenagers use the Internet and clean their browser history and cookies (\*if they know what it is) because it is one of the ways how privacy can be breached.

The main goal of the third part (questions number 8, 9,10, 11 and 12) was to confirm that the big majority of teenagers have a profile/account on some of the numerous social networks and if they do, to investigate how active they are – which means how often they log in on their profiles, how often they update their profile and cover photo, what they mostly write about as their status on Facebook, because mainly those people who are very active on

social networks are a potential target of hackers rather than those who are not so active. It is very important, too, how often they update their status and tag location, because in that way they can let everyone know where they are and what they are doing. Furthermore, there are some well known cases where burglars broke in the house whose owners tagged themselves on holiday.

The next group of the questions (questions number 13, 14 and 15) is about the negative side of being too outspoken online or being a victim of abuse on the Internet. By asking the interviewees these questions I wanted to prove my theory that there are too many people who are out spoken on the Internet and sometimes they regret because of that.

The following group of questions (questions number 16 and 17) refers to the use of **ask.fm** and how the interviewees feel about the bad side of it, such as numerous teen suicides because of being asked and answering very private things.

Finally, the last question is asked in order to see if the interviewees are familiar with any way how to stop their privacy to become completely breached and to make them think of protecting themselves.

### ***Methods***

I have conducted a survey in Grammar school "Stevan Jakovljevic". The questionnaire is presented in Appendix A. The interviewees are conducted by a survey specially designed to fit aims of the research. Each one of the interviewees filled in the form of the questionnaire and his/her answers are carefully analyzed. In order to examine equally both genders, the results are separated in two groups (male and female). In order to make the results more precise, there are three types of the questions: Yes/No questions, so called "open questions" where the interviewees can give their opinion and questions where they can choose one of the offered answers.

I surveyed 90 people. The age range was:

15 year-olds – 25 people (Female: 17 Male: 8)

16 year-olds – 13 people (Female: 9 Male: 4)

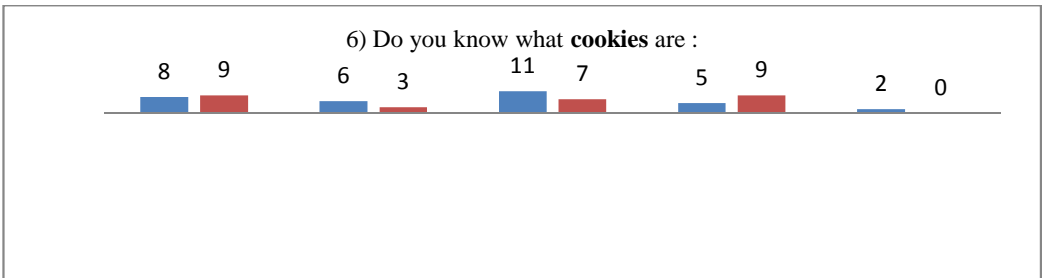
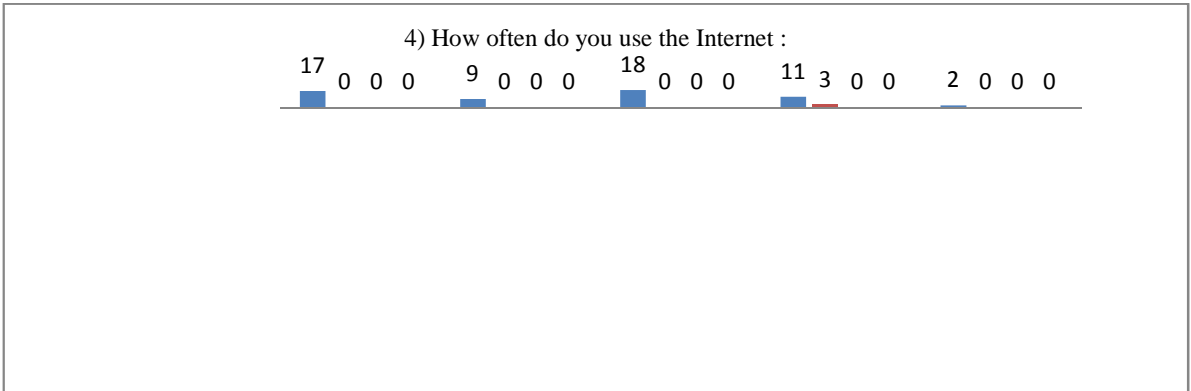
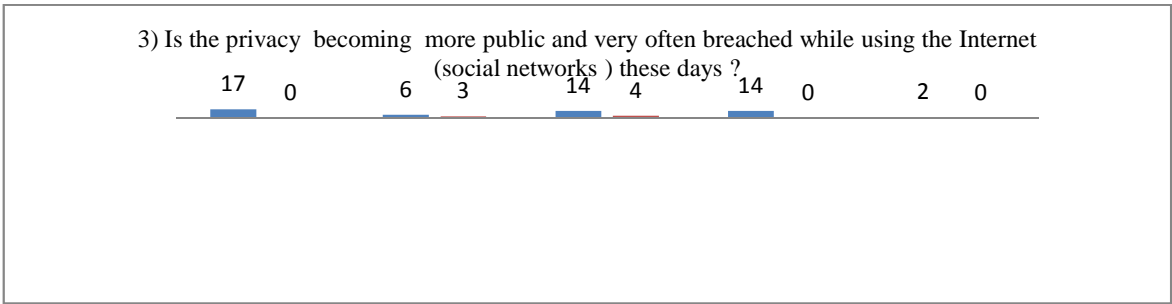
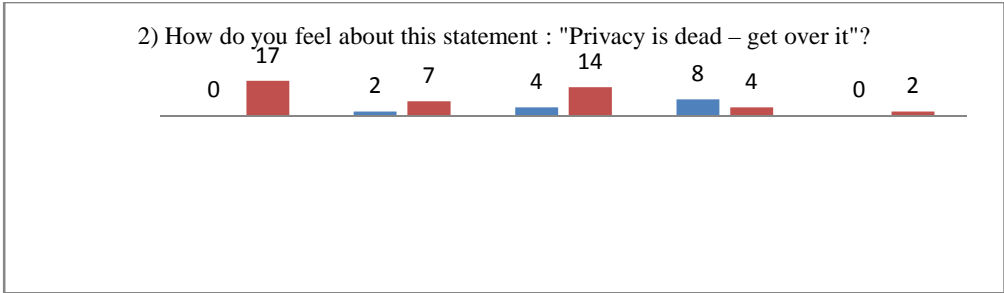
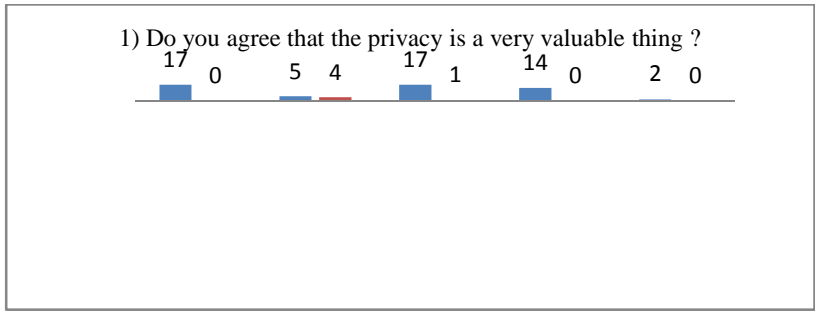
17 year-olds – 26 people (Female: 18 Male: 8)

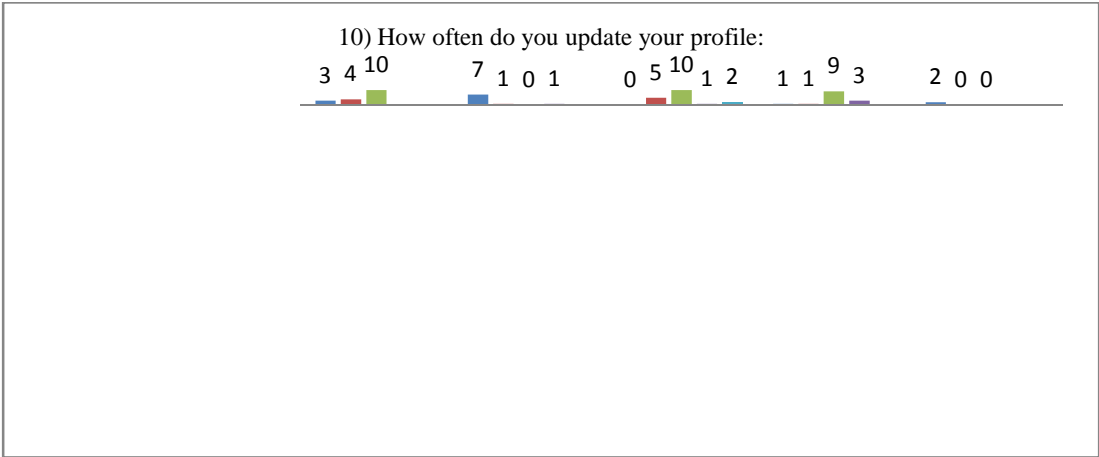
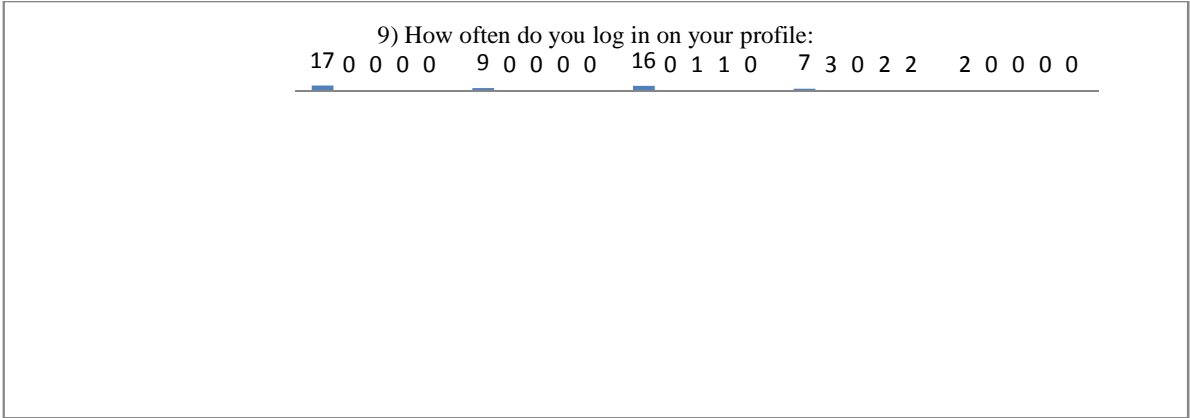
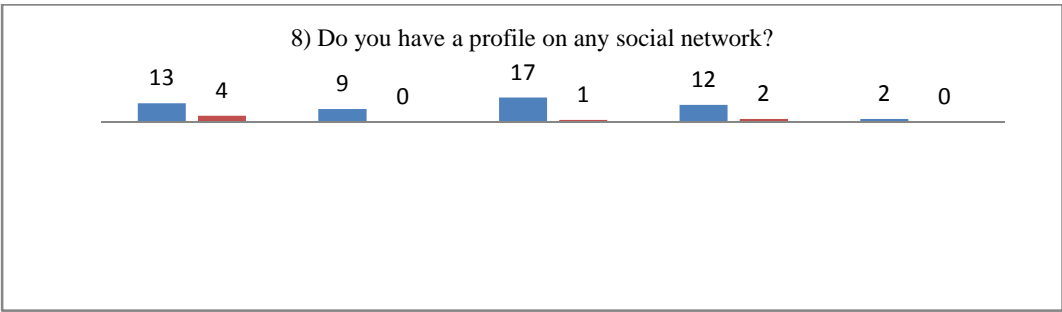
18 year-olds – 21 people (Female: 14 Male: 7)

19 year-olds – 5 people (Female: 2 Male: 3)

### ***Results***

#### ***Results for females***





11) How often do you update your status and tag the location :



12) What do you mostly write about as your status on facebook:

| Topic   | 15 year-olds (females) | 16 year-olds (females) | 17 year-olds (females) | 18 year-olds (females) | 19 year-olds (females) |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| a) quotes or song lyrics that express my emotions                                 | 7                      | 0                      | 4                      | 7                      | 2                      |
| b) something random that will make people smile                                   | 0                      | 0                      | 1                      | 0                      | 0                      |
| c) things I like/I don't like; what I'm doing; places where I've been/am/might go | 2                      | 2                      | 2                      | 4                      | 0                      |

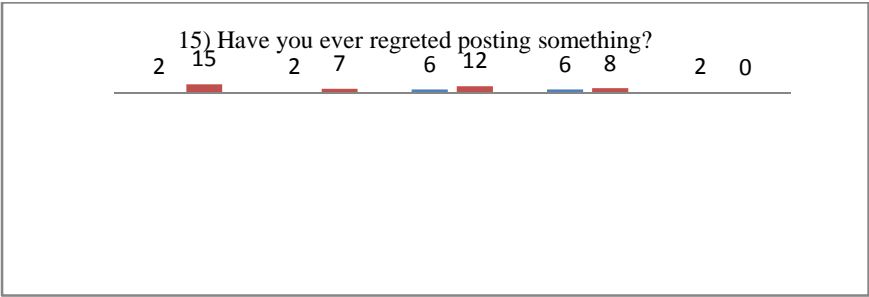
13) Have you ever got into trouble because of something you said or posted online?



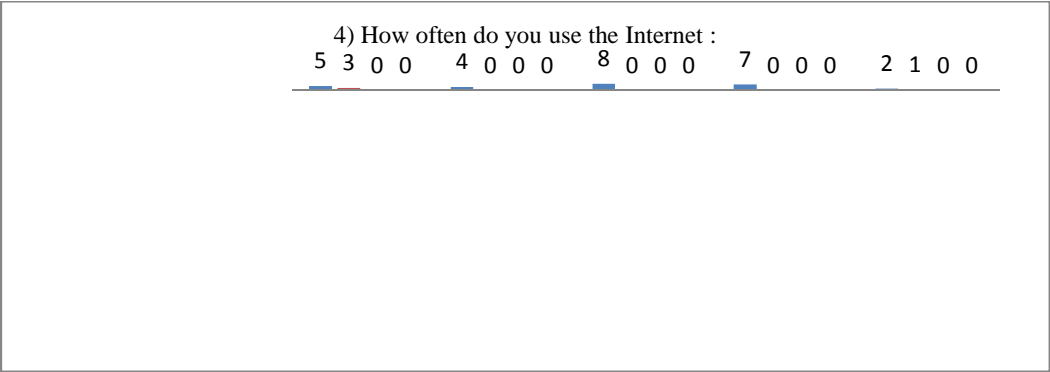
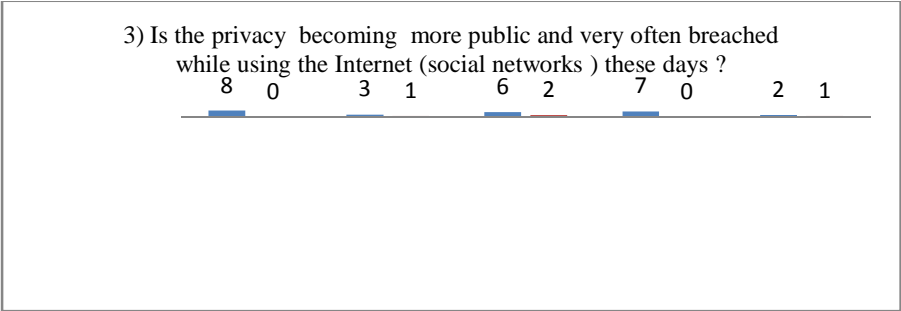
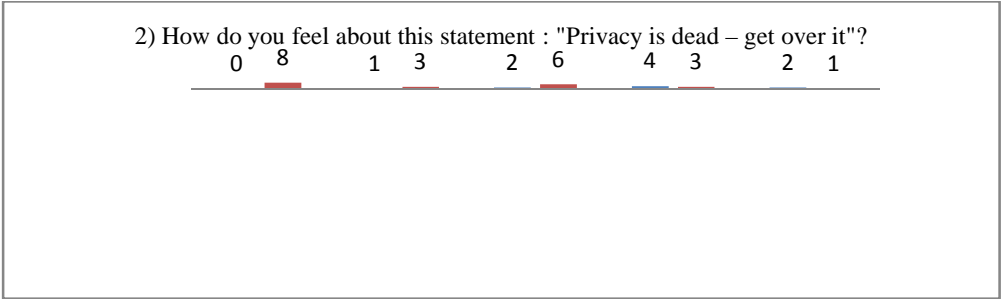
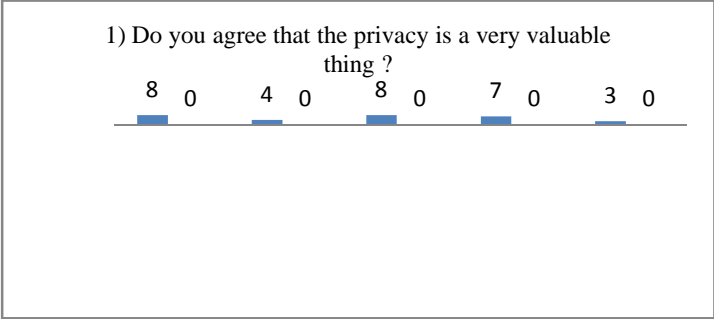
14) Have you ever been a victim of abuse on the Internet (for example: your profile was hacked, someone tried to steal your identity, you were tagged in a photo without your permission...)?

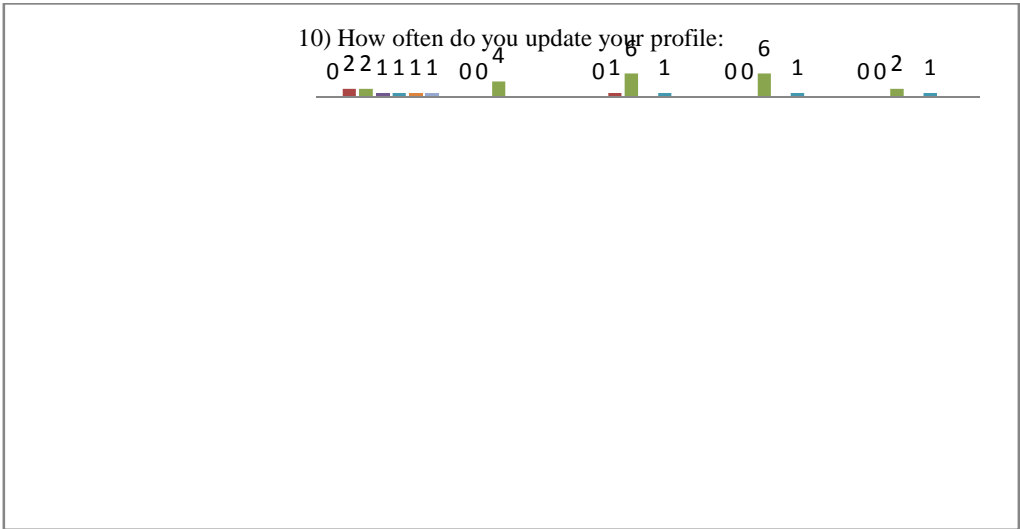
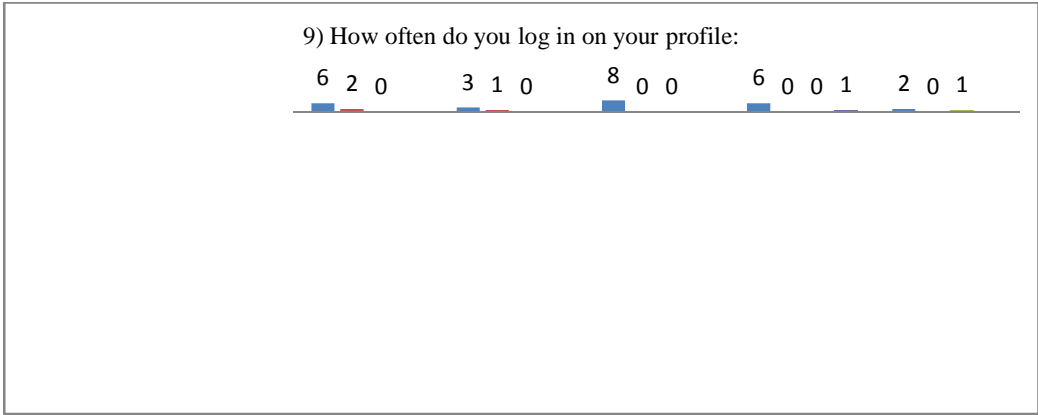
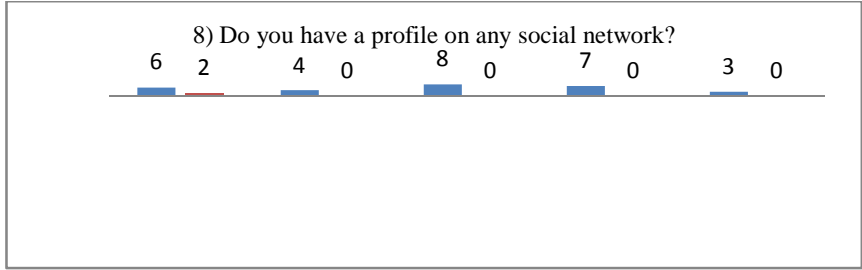
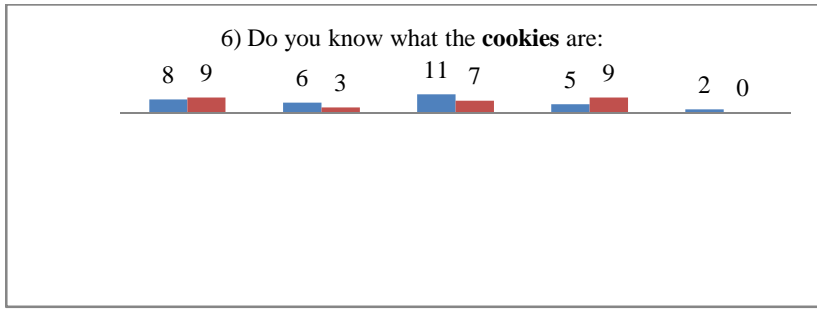






**Results for males**

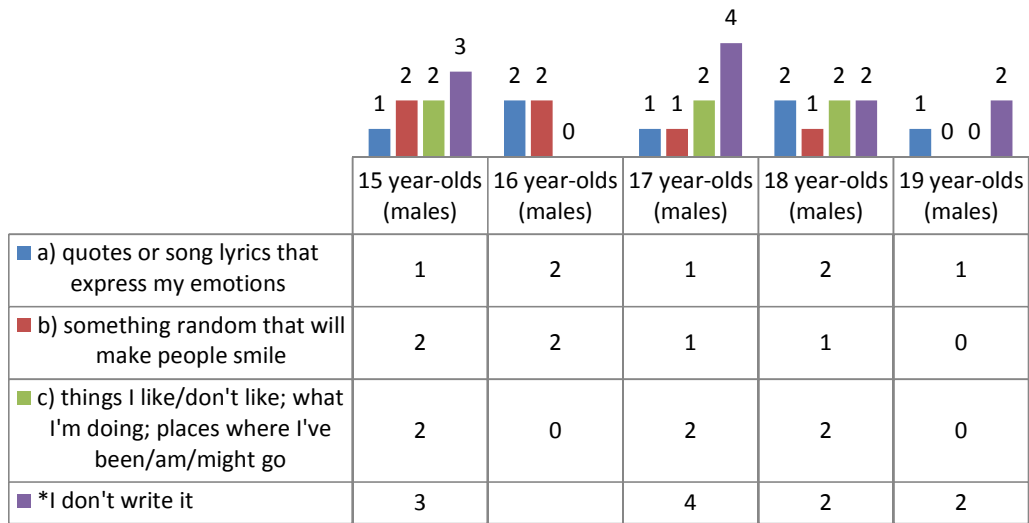




11) How often do you update your status and tag the location :

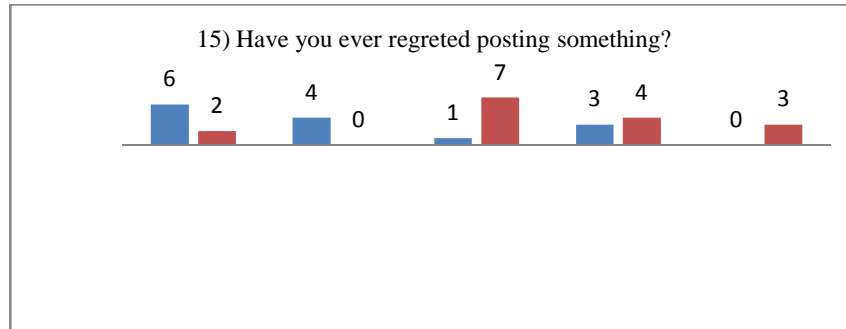
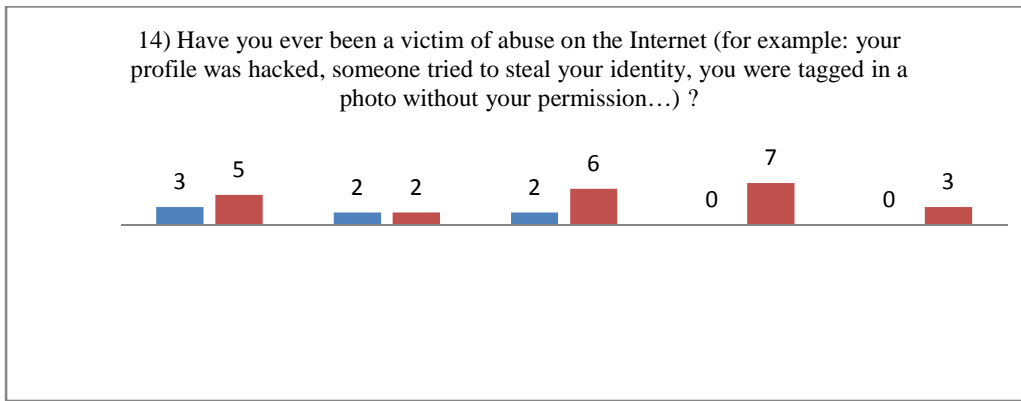


12) What do you mostly write about as your status on facebook:



13) Have you ever got into trouble because of something you said or posted online?





When analyzing the survey I found out that there were more females than males - 60 females and 30 males.

By analyzing the first question, I found out that that almost all the females (55/60) agreed that the privacy is a valuable thing, while 5 of them disagreed. All the males (30/30) agreed that it is a very valuable thing.

When answering the 2<sup>nd</sup> question more than half females disagreed (44/60), while the rest of them (14/60) agreed. The similar case was with the males: 21/30 disagreed and the others (9/30) agreed.

The answers to the 3<sup>rd</sup> question were as following: big majority of females (53/60) agreed that the privacy is becoming more public and very often breached while using the Internet (social networks) these days and also the big majority of males (26/30) also agreed with that.

The answers to the 4<sup>th</sup> question confirmed that teenagers use the Internet a lot these days. The big majority of females (57/60) say that they use it *few times per day*, while 3 of them use it *once in a week*. More or less, the results were similar for men – 26/30 said that they use it *few times per day*, and only 3 of them use it *once in a week*. None of them both males and females use it *once in a month* or *not at all*.

The most given answers to the 5<sup>th</sup> question that I got were the following: both females and males mostly said *never*, then *sometimes* and *every day*, while there are some of the interviewees who do that not so frequently, such as *once in a month*. There are more men than women who clean their browser history *every day*, while there are more females than males who do it *sometimes*.

There are more people who know than those who do not know what the cookies are: 32/60 females and 18/30 males. But, there are also a lot of them who are not familiar with that term: 28/60 females and 10/30 males.

While one half of the females clean or even block the cookies, and the other half do not, there are more than half males who do that than those who don't.

Results of the survey confirmed that there is a big majority of teenagers who have a profile on at least one social network: 53/60 females and 28/30 males.

When asked how often they log in on their profile, most of the interviewees chose the first offered answer which is *few times per day*. That option was chosen by 51/60 females and by 25/30 males. The rest of the interviewees circled the 2<sup>nd</sup> or the 3<sup>rd</sup> offered answer, or claimed that they do not log in at all because they do not have a profile or they do not even log out at all.

Unlike the previous questions, the answers to the 10<sup>th</sup> question were not the 1<sup>st</sup> or the 2<sup>nd</sup> offered option. Just a little bit more than a half females (31/60) said that they update their profile and cover photo *once in a month*, 13/60 of them said *every day*, 11/60 said *every week*, while the rest of them said *never* or *once in a year*. The answers given by the males were more or less similar. Most of them (20/30) said *once in a month*, 3/30 of them do that *every week*, none does that *every day*, and the others said *never*, *once in a year*, or even *once in two years*.

More than half females did not choose one of the three given answers to the 11<sup>th</sup> question. In fact, 37/60 females claimed that they *never* do that. 9/60 of them said that they do that *occasionally*, 5/60 chose *every week* as an answer, while the minority of them said they do that *every day*, *sometimes* or *few times per month*. Also most of the males (12/30) said that they *never* do that, and the rest of them gave similar answers as the females.

It is interesting that both the females and the males when answering the 12<sup>th</sup> question mostly gave their own answers. Although almost all the interviewees have a profile, 29/60 females and 11/30 males said they never write status on Facebook. Unlike the females, who rarely write something random on Facebook 1/60, 6/30 males do that. The same case is with the song lyrics that express someone's emotions - 20/60 women circled that answer, while only 7/30 males chose that answer.

Answers given by the interviewees to the 13<sup>th</sup> question were as following: 49/60 females and 27/30 males have got into trouble because of something they said or posted online.

Less than half of the females 23/60 and 7/30 males have been victims of abuse on the Internet.

Answers were more or less similar to the following question. 42/60 of the females have not regretted posting something, as well as 16/30 males.

On the one hand most of the females when answering the 16<sup>th</sup> question claimed that they have a bad opinion about **ask.fm**, such as they hate it and that they think it is a stupid thing and a waste of time, on the other hand there are some of them who use it (but that is a small number) in order to see what people think about them and there are some of them who used to use it but stopped because they had found it boring and useless. The answers given by the males were more or less in the same line with the answers given by the females. Generally, both females and males mostly have a very bad opinion about it.

Surprisingly, females' opinions about the 17<sup>th</sup> questions are divided. While some of them are shocked by the fact that a large number of teen suicides is connected with the **ask.fm** and think it is very scary, terrible and not worth it and feel pity for those teenagers, the rest of them just do not care about it or think that it is normal because it was made with that purpose. The males' opinions are just as the females'.

Solutions given by the interviewees are as following: they suggest that people should deactivate their profiles, change some privacy settings, confirm/accept only people who they really know, use strong passwords, not leave their personal information, not tag the location, or simply people should be very careful what they are doing on the Internet. There are some of them who are pessimistic and think there is no solution for it.

### ***What is privacy?***

**Privacy** is the ability of an individual or a group to seclude themselves, or information about themselves, and thereby express themselves selectively. When something is private to a person, it usually means that something is inherently special or sensitive to them. Almost all countries have laws which in some way limit privacy. The domain of privacy partially includes security, which can include the protection of information. The boundaries and content of what is considered private differ among cultures and individuals, but share common themes. Therefore, there are the following types of privacy:

**1) Personal privacy** - Most people have a strong sense of privacy in relation to the exposure of their body to others. This is an aspect of personal modesty. A person will go to extreme lengths to protect it. For example by wearing clothes, erecting the walls, fences, use of cathedral glass...

**2) Informational** – includes various types of privacy such as financial privacy, internet privacy, medical privacy and political privacy

**3) Organizational** - When some Government agencies, corporations, groups/societies and other organizations may desire to keep their activities or secrets from being revealed to other organizations or individuals. In that order they adopt various security practices and controls in order to keep private information confidential.

**4) Spiritual and intellectual** - Development of privacy rights began under British common law, which protected "only the physical interference of life and property." Privacy rights gradually expanded to include a "recognition of man's spiritual nature, of his feelings and his intellect." Eventually, the scope of those rights broadened even further to include a basic "right to be let alone"

## *Privacy on the internet*

Technology advances, but together with it changes the way in which the privacy is protected. As number of people who use the Internet increases every day, the ability to gather and share private information increases, too, and that can lead to new ways in which privacy can be breached. That is one more way our privacy is exposed to risk, that George Orwell did not predict in his book. But how the Internet can affect our privacy?

Information systems become more common. Some information like comments written on blogs, pictures and Internet sites, such as Facebook and Twitter is permanent. Once written, it stays there forever, and anyone can access it. Some information can be in danger of malicious attack or they could potentially be sold to others for profit. For example, there are companies hired to watch what internet sites people visit, and then use the information in order to send advertising based on one's browsing history. Employers may research a potential employee by searching online for the details of their online behavior. Therefore, when posting things on the Internet, people should always think twice and be very careful.

Internet privacy involves the right or mandate of personal privacy concerning the storing, repurposing, provision to third parties, and displaying of information pertaining to oneself via the Internet.



Privacy can entail either Personally Identifying Information (PII) or non-PII information. While PII refers to any information that can be used to identify an individual, non-PII information refers to a site visitor's behavior on a website. For example, age and physical address alone could identify who an individual is without explicitly disclosing their name.

Steve Rambam, a private investigator specializing in Internet privacy cases, believes that privacy no longer exists; saying, "Privacy is dead – get over it".

There are many ways in which people can reveal their personal information, for instance by using social media and by sending bank and credit card information to various websites. There are different types of privacy risks - which may be encountered through the Internet use such as the gathering of statistics on users to more malicious acts such as the spreading of spyware and the exploitation of various forms of bugs (software faults).

There are some social networking sites which are trying to protect the personal information of their subscribers. For example, Facebook is one of them. Some of the offered privacy settings are the following: they can block some people from seeing their profile and they can limit who has the access to their photos and videos. There also are some privacy settings on Twitter.

## *How to protect your privacy online?*

Children and adolescents often use the Internet, especially social media, in ways which risk their privacy. They may not realize that their browsing can be tracked while visiting a particular site. Search engines have the ability to track a user's searches and they have claimed that they have to retain some personal information in order to provide better services.

Using the information stored by AOL Search a full profile of a member can be made even though the true identity of the user is not known. In that way they are able to learn a great deal about them. Google search tends to allow the user to feel that search engine recognizes their interests. And how do they do that?

They achieve that by using the cookies. There are different types of cookies, such as HTTP cookie, Flash cookie, Zombie cookie and Evercookie. Cookies are invented in order to have a positive aim. One of the benefits is that for websites that one frequently visits that requires a password, cookies make it so that they do not have to sign every time. They can also track one's preferences to show them websites that might interest them.

Cookies are mostly harmless except for third-party cookies which are not made by the website itself, but by web banner advertising companies. They are dangerous because they take the same information that regular cookies do, such as browsing habits and frequently visited websites, but then they give out this information to other companies. Cookies are often associated with pop-ups. Some people choose to disable cookies in their web browsers. It can reduce some privacy risks, but may severely limit or prevent the functionality of many websites. As an alternative, you may frequently delete any stored cookies.

Not only can the Internet endanger the privacy, but also mobile phones. It was found out that pictures taken by some phones and tablets including iPhones automatically attach the latitude and longitude of the picture taken through metadata unless this function is manually disabled.

So, how can we protect our privacy? Here are **10** tips:

**1. Use different passwords for every account.**

If you use the same password on every account you have, it is easy for you to remember it. But what if someone discovers it and starts trying it on other sites and services? In order to prevent that, make sure you use different passwords on different sites.

**2. Make sure your passwords are strong.**

It is not enough to use different passwords, but you should make them strong and hard-to-guess. You can do that by using a mix of upper- and lowercase letters and numbers. You should also change them at least once every six months.

**3. Set up two-factor authentication.**

When you sign into your account, it requires you to enter another code, which you can only get via text or a voice call. It provides an extra layer of security. This way no one can get into your account unless they have that piece, too.

**4. Don't reveal too much on social networks.**

Many people are giving their personal information out on the internet. Most users are not aware that they can modify the privacy settings and unless they modify them, their



information is open to the public. You should be very careful about what information you share in your public profile and lock down your settings.

#### **5. Protect your computer and browser.**

Make sure if you are using a Windows PC you are using an up-to-date anti-virus or spyware program.

#### **6. Secure your wireless connection.**

Make sure you have protected your home wireless network with a password and you have changed the default SSID (your network's name). When connecting to public Wi-Fi networks be safe about what information you are sending over it. It is recommended to use HotSpot Shield, a program that determines the safety of the network.

#### **7. Shop only at safe sites.**

#### **8. Think before clicking links.**

Be vigilant about what links you click in an email, especially when they come from companies. Also, do not click on odd direct messages or Facebook messages with links. If your friends are sending exciting photos they are not going to do it via a link.

#### **9. Protect your phone with a password.**

Your phone is now a computer and can have as much or even more personal information than your laptop or desktop. Android users should also consider security software or apps.

#### **10. Pay attention.**

It might be obvious, but just remember that if you are using any Internet service or Web browser you have to be smart. Think twice before anything you post online. Prevention is the best medicine!

### **CONCLUSION**

Having finished this essay, I must say that I was not surprised by the outcome of the survey. The answers I got were in line with my own thoughts on the subject, but nevertheless it was very interesting to carry out the survey because it backed up what I had expected, except some facts.

I must say that I have expected that a big majority of the interviewees will say that they tag the location every week, but the results of the survey showed that half of them never do that. What I found interesting is the fact that though there is a big number of the interviewees who have a profile on social networks only half of them write statuses; They rather read them. There is a contradictory fact – both females and males in general have bad opinion about the **ask.fm**, yet there are some of them who use it, although it is a small number. Related to the **ask.fm**, what I found shocking is that while on the one hand there are some people who are shocked by the fact that a large number of teen suicides is connected with the **ask.fm** and think it is very scary, terrible and not worth of it, the rest of them just do not care about it. It just does not affect them.



Wake up! Big Brother from Orwell's book is here and he is right behind you! Yes, he is watching your every step! Does that make you feel insecure? Are you frightened? Well, you should be. You had better start caring about your privacy or it will have vanished. Be wise! Think carefully about your every step on the Internet! Start protecting your privacy! Be very careful whatever you do! Your privacy is under surveillance! Big Brother is watching you!

---

**WAR IS PEACE**  
**FREEDOM IS SLAVERY**  
**IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH**

**"If you want to keep a secret, you must also hide it from yourself."**-George Orwell

## ***Appendix A***

Questionnaire:

AGE \_\_\_\_\_ SEX \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) Do you agree that the privacy is a very valuable thing ? Yes / No
- 2) How do you feel about this statement : "Privacy is dead – get over it"?
- 3) Is the privacy becoming more public and very often breached while using the Internet (social networks ) these days ? Yes, it is, / No, it isn't.
- 4) How often do you use the Internet :
  - a) Few times per day
  - b) Once in a week
  - c) Once in a month
  - d) Not at all
- 5) How often do you clean your browser history ?
- 6) Do you know what **cookies** are : Yes / No
- 7) Do you clean or even block the **cookies** ?
- 8) Do you have a profile on any social network? Yes/No
- 9) How often do you log in on your profile :
  - a) Few times per day
  - b) Once in a week
  - c) Once in a month
- 10) How often do you update your profile and cover photo :
  - a) Every day
  - b) Every week
  - c) Once in a month
- 11) How often do you update your status and tag the location :
  - a) Every day
  - b) Every week
  - c) Ocassionally
- 12) What do you mostly write about as your status on facebook ?
  - a) quotes or song lyrics that express my emotions
  - b) something random that will make people smile

- c) things I like/don't like; what I'm doing; places where I've been/am/might go
- 13) Have you ever got into trouble because of something you said or posted online?
  - 14) Have you ever been a victim of abuse on the Internet (for example: your profile was hacked, someone tried to steal your identity, you were tagged in a photo without your permission...) ? Yes / No
  - 15) Have you ever regretted posting something?
  - 16) How do you feel about [ask.fm](http://ask.fm) craze?
  - 17) How do you feel about the fact that a large number of teen suicides is connected with the ask.fm ?
  - 18) What would you do to stop your privacy to become completely breached?

## *Sources*

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Privacy>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet\\_privacy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_privacy)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Privacy\\_issues\\_of\\_social\\_networking\\_sites](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Privacy_issues_of_social_networking_sites)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet\\_privacy#Reduction\\_of\\_risks\\_to\\_Internet\\_privacy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_privacy#Reduction_of_risks_to_Internet_privacy)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet\\_privacy#Risks\\_to\\_Internet\\_privacy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_privacy#Risks_to_Internet_privacy)

<http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/safer-internet-day-password-online-shopping-internet-safety/story?id=18404839&page=2>