



# Charting a Better Path: Alternatives for Youth in Cyber

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FBI New York  
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# Why Are We Here?

- Minors as young as eleven and twelve engage in risky cyber behaviors.
- These behaviors often start in online gaming or with low-level hacking involving peers or their school.
- When left unaddressed, these activities can lead to much more serious cyber crimes.

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## Teenagers led a group of hackers who breached some of the world's biggest tech companies. The government wants to know how they did it.

BY NICOLE SGANGA  
DECEMBER 2, 2022 7:30 PM | CBS NEWS

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# Lapsus\$: Court finds teenagers carried out hacking spree

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## Smells like teen hackers

By JOSEPH GEDEON | 09/25/2023 10:17 AM EDT

*With help from John Sakellariadis*

DRIVING THE DAY

— **Underage hackers are wreaking havoc on American companies**, and that poses a real problem for federal law enforcement agencies.

F B I C Y B E R

# Online vs IRL

## In Real Life

- Average Age: 37
- Opportunities for Intervention.
- First Contact with Law Enforcement.

## Online

- Average Age: 19
- Opportunities for Intervention?
- First Contact with Law Enforcement.

**Policing ought to begin with community and  
end with enforcement.**

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# Dutch COPS Program | UK Cyber Choices

- At-risk youth 12-25.
- Pre-First Offense Pathway vs. First Offense Pathway
- Founded and run by national police.



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# **Building a US-based Prevent Program**

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# Advancing a Whole-of-Society Approach

- Community developed, community focused, community led.
- Traditional diversion programs seek to give a kid a place to go, with positive voices, socialization of societal norms, etc.
- This program gives a kid a place to go...online.

# From the Hackerspace to Corporate Office Space

- Academia
  - Coding Challenges hosted a local universities.
- Non-Profit
  - Mentorship and thought leadership around community standards.
- Cybersecurity
  - A place where “hacker” is a virtue.
- Private
  - Developing skills for the next generation of cyber leaders.

# Tech Futures: Good Digital Citizenship

- Partnering with online and in-person resources to provide age appropriate training on good digital citizenship.
- Voluntary mentorship program for juvenile hackers/cyber-curious.
  - Career opportunities
  - Educational resources
  - Community
- Informed Choices.

**“Our understanding of how a child’s brain develops has evolved. Our legal system has not evolved it’s understanding of that.”**

**-Josie Duffy Rice**

# Project re\_direct for Juveniles

- Voluntary First Offender Program From State/Local Courts
- Supervised Mentorship Program
- Restorative Justice
- Educational resources/academic opportunities

# Project re\_direct for Adults

- Voluntary First Offender Program from Federal/State/Local
- Supervised Mentorship Program
- Restorative Justice
- Job Training/Career Opportunities

# Getting Involved

- A whole-of-society approach needs a whole-of-society effort.
- What we're looking for:
  - Thought Leadership
  - Mentors
  - Pathfinding

# **Building Community to Develop and Support the Next Generation of Digital Leaders.**

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