

Student Name	Chris Durbin
Company	BT
Research University	Loughborough
Academic Supervisor (s)	Professor David Parish
Title	Security Policy Engineering, Exploitation of Trusted Computing and Identity Federation Applications
Abstract	<p>There is perhaps no more emotive subject than child abuse, especially when that abuse is of a sexual nature; the explosive growth of the Internet in recent years has enabled those with nefarious agendas to operate (groom children) with relative incognito, in an environment without geographic boundaries, in a manner not previous possible.</p> <p>Instant Messaging (IM) is an exciting and beneficial technology that has been embraced in social environments and the business community. Children and the young have been keen adopters of this technology, however they are also it's most vulnerable. They are frequently naïve to the 'ways of the world' and tend to accept without suspicion that others are who they claim to be. The principle research focus of this thesis is to determine if it is possible to differentiate between a child talking to a child and a child talking to a groomer using IM and/or other Internet messaging forums e.g. chat rooms. Statistical models will be constructed using features extracted from the text of the chat and compared against known 'safe' models (models generated whilst both participants were children). The posit being children chatting with other children will generate conversational characteristics similar to that of the model, thereby matching to the model with a high probability, while the advances of a groomer will produce characteristics demonstrably different to the model thereby matching to the model with a low probability. Thus a low probability match (possibly indicating grooming activities) would trigger a flag to notify a parent or guardian to investigate further.</p>