Part of our Online Bullying Series

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Online Bullying

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# What you need to know about...
# SCREENGRABS

## What are they?

### 'Screengrabs'

Phones, tablets, and computers all have a feature that allows you to instantly capture and save still images of the content that's currently displayed on your screen. These images are called screengrabs, though you may also know them as 'screenshots' or 'screencaps'. Screengrabs are incredibly useful for countless reasons. They can let you quickly save a copy of information you might easily forget, like instructions or a number, email address or article, capture a funny still from a video clip, and even get around Twitter's 280-character limit for tweets.

SCREENSHOT SAVED

## Know the Risks

### Cause reputational damage

If somebody screengrabs an intimate picture, personal update or comment taken out of context which was intended to remain private or confidential, it could cause reputational damage if leaked to other people or shared publicly. It could even be used as leverage for bullying or extortion.

### Fraud

Never send valuable information such as financial details or passwords to other people or post it online, as it can be saved in a screengrab. That could allow a fraudster to breach your accounts and steal money and other precious information.

### Privacy breaches

Many messaging apps use end-to-end encryption to keep conversations private between users which makes them popular to use. However, screengrabs provide an easy way to breach a child's privacy and any conversations they've held in confidence assuming that the app encryption would protect them.

### Can be undetected

Apps such as Snapchat will notify you if a post or message has been screengrabbed, but by then the damage may already have been done. Furthermore, some users have discovered ways to take screengrabs without being detected, which means children may never have any idea.

## Safety Tips

### Block and report

Messaging apps and social media platforms have made it relatively easy to block and report other users, which is one of the first steps you can take to protect a child if they're suffering from any abuse. In some cases, this could result in that person's account being shut down.

### Implement privacy setting

Maximising children's privacy settings on social media will provide them with an extra blanket of protection and will ensure that they only communicate with people they know well and trust, such as close friends and family. Ensure they know never to accept friend requests from strangers.

### Ask for support

If a child is being subject to bullying behaviour, gather evidence using screengrabs, and report the incidents to the school, designated safeguarding lead and the local authorities if you believe the situation is serious. It may also be wise to seek professional help and support if necessary if you believe a child has been seriously a

## Conversation Tips

### Discuss appropriate messaging

Prevention is always better than cure. Try talking to children to change their attitudes to the digital world. Foster a culture of honesty, maturity, and intelligence with regards to technology and warn them of the risks of sending sensitive information or inappropriate or embarrassing messages which could be used against them.

### Talk about their feelings

Be proactive and try to spot changes in children's behaviour. You should look out for some of the tell-tale signs of bullying, which include sadness, isolation, mood swings, a reluctance to socialise or go to school, and a decline in academic performance. Try to encourage children to open up and discuss th feelings and why they might be feeling like this.

### Draw on experience

Initiate conversations with children about their use of messaging and social media apps. Be sensitive, and do not judge them. It may also help to share your own experiences – a child might find it easier to talk and better to relate to something coming from your own experience.

## Our Expert
### Aatif Sulleyman

Aatif Sulleyman is an experienced and respected technology journalist who has written about tech and consumer electronics for a broad range of publications including Gizmodo UK, The Independent, Digital Spy and ITProPortal. He is currently the Digital News and Features editor at Trusted Reviews and has written widely across topics such as online streaming, social media platforms and privacy and security online.