

12-17 YEARS

YOUR FUTURE IS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Develop your cyber skills



**CYBER
CHOICES**





www.cyberchoices.uk



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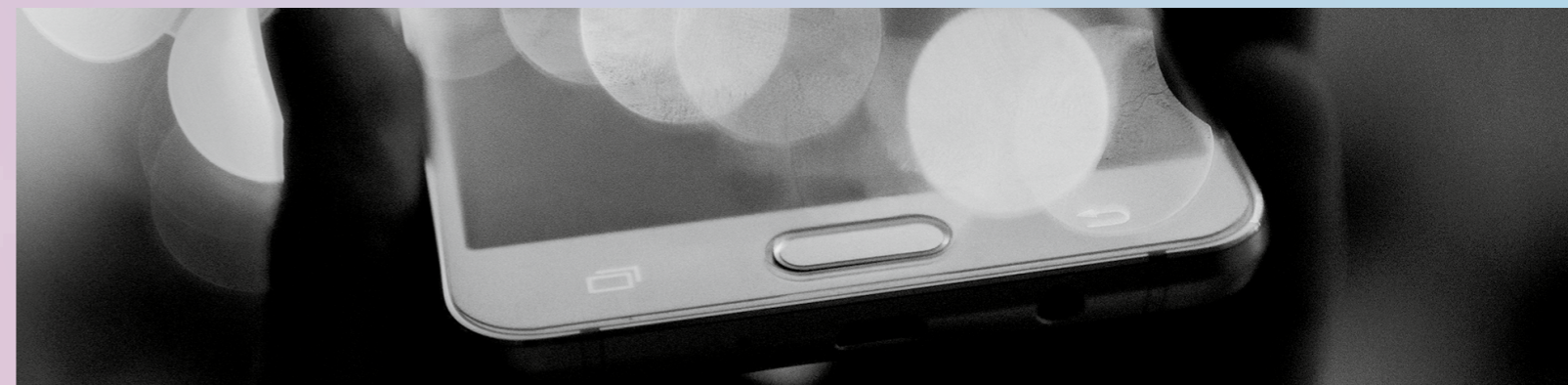
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Hello



THANK YOU FOR PICKING UP THIS BROCHURE

It's been especially designed for 12 to 17 year-olds, to help you find ways to develop your cyber skills and make sure you know how to do so without breaking the law. We hope you enjoy...



Introduction

The world is immersed in communications and computing technology, including your phone, tablet, laptop, PC, game consoles, TVs, smart devices and of course the internet.

Many people are curious and want to explore how these things work, how they interact with each other and what vulnerabilities they have. This can include learning to code and experimenting with tools and techniques discovered online, on video streaming websites, or discussed in forums.

These are great skills and knowledge to have. The cyber security industry is short of people which means that salaries and prospects in this sector are fantastic. However, some people make poor choices and use such skills illegally, often not knowing the law.

This Cyber Choices brochure provides information on the Computer Misuse Act 1990 and the potential consequences of breaking the law, to help you avoid making ill-informed and bad choices. It also lists a number of resources where cyber skills and interests can be practiced legally and developed positively.



The Computer Misuse Act 1990

Section 1

Unauthorised access to computer material.

Section 2

Unauthorised access with intent to commit or facilitate commission of further offences.

Section 3

Unauthorised acts with intent to impair, or with recklessness as to impairing, operation of computer.

Section 3ZA

Unauthorised acts causing, or creating risk of, serious damage.

Section 3A

Making, supplying or obtaining articles for use in offence under section 1, 3 or 3ZA.

A criminal record could affect your education and further career prospects so get to know the legal boundaries whilst online.

Read more on page 14

For example



You watch your friend enter their username and password. You remember their login details and without their permission, later login and read all their messages.



Your friend leaves their tablet on the sofa. Without their permission, you access their gaming account and buy game credits with the attached credit card.



You are playing an online game with a friend who scores higher than you. You use a 'Booter' tool knowing it will knock them offline, so you can win the game.



You hack a phone company. Your hack stops some people phoning the Police when they are in danger. You didn't mean for this to happen but you were reckless.



You download software so you can bypass login credentials and hack into your friend's laptop, however you've not had a chance to use it yet.



Resources

There are fun and challenging online activities available to legally test and develop your cyber skills, whether or not you are considering a career in tech.



CODING

Computer programming or 'Coding' can be described as writing instructions in a specific programming language that a computer follows to perform tasks.

Using coding, you can build software, create websites, run applications, design video games and so much more.

There are numerous online resources to allow anyone with an interest to learn how to code in any number of programming languages, such as Python, Java and HTML.



Online resources

The online resources available don't just stop at coding there are loads more cyber skills that can be learned through interactive platforms that allow you to practice what you've learned in a safe to fail environment.

Cloud Computing, AI and Machine learning, Networking, Ethical Hacking, Digital Forensics and Scripting.

Some of these skills will become the building blocks for a career in cyber.

GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES

TechFirst - Tech Youth

Developing the UK's next generation of cyber and tech professionals through student bursaries, courses for 11–18 year olds and competitions

www.gov.uk/guidance/techfirst

Cyber Explorers

A fun, free interactive learning platform for those aged 11–14 backed by His Majesty's Government's Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT). It showcases how skills taught in class are linked to real world situations, through an immersive, gamified learning experience.

www.cyberexplorers.co.uk

Further Education

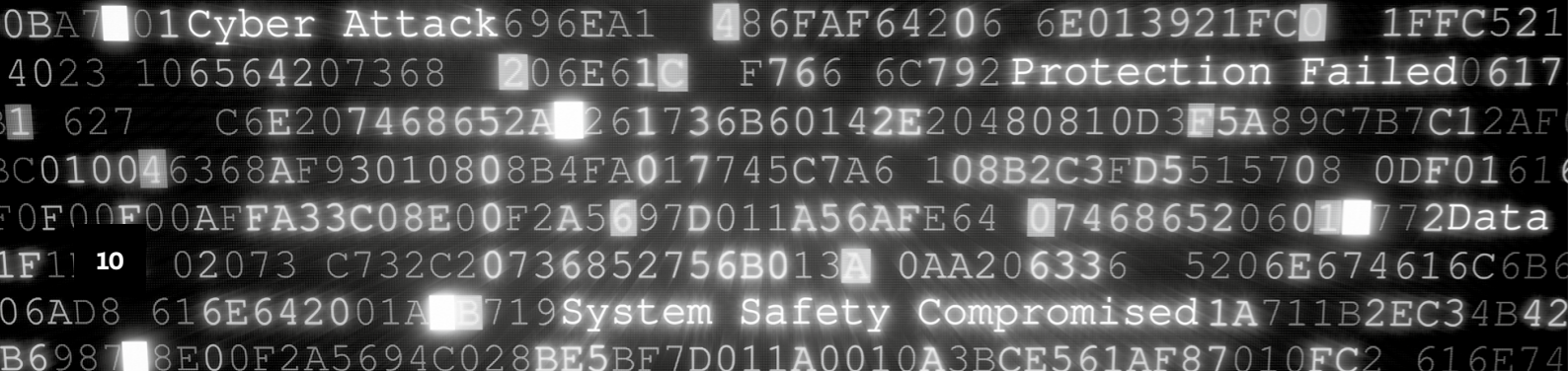
If you are looking to learn more about IT and cyber security there are different routes you can choose, from university courses to online study.

UNIVERSITY COURSES

ONLINE STUDY

UCAS
The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service website provides full details of university courses and entry requirements. The site also details apprenticeships. There are a number of institutions offering cyber security as a specialism.
www.ucas.com

NCSC
The National Cyber Security Centre website contains a lot of information on both academic and professional qualifications in cyber security.
www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/education-skills/schools



Future careers

Skills in coding, gaming, computer programming, cyber security or anything IT related are in high demand. There are many careers and opportunities available to anyone with an interest in these areas.

There are so many careers in cyber out there and so much information available online. Why not get searching...What does a Special Operations Centre Analyst do? What skills do I need to become a penetration tester?

CREST

An international not-for-profit accreditation and certification body that represents and supports the technical information security market. CREST has produced some careers guidance if you are looking to go into cyber security.

www.crest-approved.org/skills-certifications-careers/career-path

Apprenticeships

These are available through college websites and the Government site below.

www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch

Careers Service

The National Careers Service provides free and impartial advice, information and guidance on different careers including those in cyber. The Service is available to anyone aged 13+ no matter what stage of the careers journey you're at.

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers

Esports

Esports (electronic sports) is competitive video gaming where players play against each other in teams. Like with any other sport there are opportunities for individuals to learn and develop their core sports skills but also discipline, critical thinking, team working and communication skills.

There is often a crossover between those with an interest in cyber and those with an interest in video gaming and therefore esports offer a fun and unique alternative pathway to develop your skills and be part of a community.

British Esports

Established with a vision to promote and nurture future esports talent and shape the landscape of competitive gaming throughout the UK and internationally through developing grassroots esports, cutting edge curriculum and career pathways.

There are opportunities to represent your school, college or university through the British Esports Student Champs (age 12-19) or at University through National Student Esports and to study esports qualifications such as the Esports Leadership Programme, engage with Esports as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award or study esports full time in further and higher education through the Level 2 to Level 5 National and Higher National Qualifications in esports that support progression into a wide range of future careers. You can learn more by visiting the British Esports website britishesports.org/esports-and-education/

What to remember

We hope you found this Cyber Choices information useful.

The websites mentioned in this brochure are just some of the range of places cyber skills can be practised and improved ethically and legally. All the third party sites listed are publicly available for personal development. They are not endorsed, supported or monitored by the NCA or law enforcement. Used correctly, skills in digital, technology and computing can lead to an exciting and well-paid career. Companies really want young people who are talented in these areas. Enjoy exploring the websites and learning materials provided, and finding your own too. Make sure you stay within the law when practicing.

Consequences of breaking the Computer Misuse Act 1990 may include:

- Receiving a visit and warning from the police or NCA officers
- Being arrested
- Getting a criminal record
- Having devices seized
- Being banned or limited in your internet use
- Being expelled from school
- Not being able to get the job you want
- Not being able to travel to certain countries

...or all of the above!

To avoid making the wrong cyber choices there are four main things to remember...

- 1** Don't access anyone else's computer, device, network or their accounts without their permission.
- 2** Don't change the way a computer, device, network or website works without the owner's permission.
- 3** Don't do anything that stops someone else's computer, network or device working properly, without the owner's permission.
- 4** Don't download, make or supply anything for the purpose of committing cyber crime.

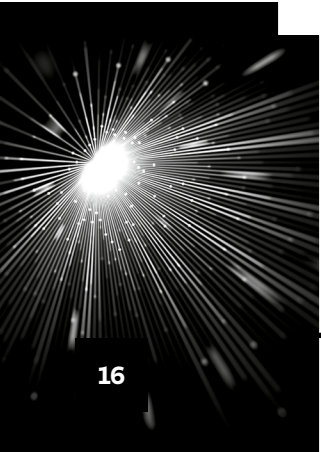
Ask a trusted adult if you are unsure about what you or others are doing.



Get in touch

Cyber Choices is a programme delivered by the Regional Cyber Choices Network and Local Police Force Cyber Teams, co-ordinated by the National Crime Agency.

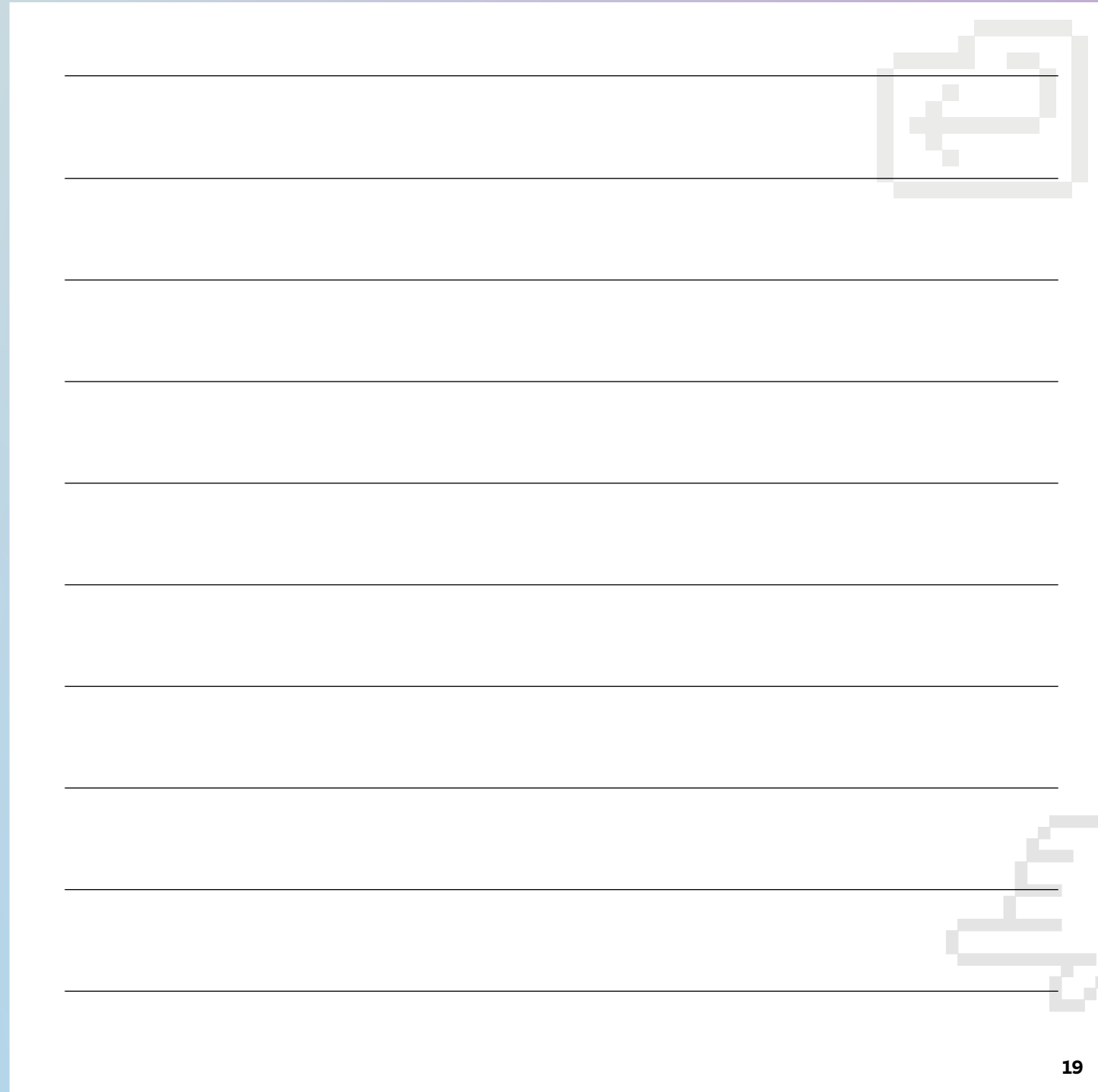
If you would like any further information or advice on Cyber Choices, please visit us at www.cyberchoices.uk for more resources and our contact details.



Notes

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www.cyberchoices.uk

**Helping you
choose a
positive and
legal path**