

Fort Smith Police Department

Cyber Investigations Unit

Technical Information Alert

The Fort Smith Police Department is sending out this information as an advisory to parents and caretakers of children who may be at an increased risk of exploitation due to recent technological developments. There has been an increase in programs that allow for free and paid communication via the internet. One of the more popular programs is *Skype*. This program allows for texting, file sharing, video conferencing and phone calls. The base account is free and all that is needed is a wireless connection. The danger in this technology is that a child can use a laptop or other wireless device such as the iPod Touch to communicate as if the device were a cell phone. The concern is that children can call and be called on devices that parents did not realize were capable of this type of function. For more information a link to the *Skype* iPhone/iPod application has been provided. You can also reach the Cyber Investigations Unit by calling 479-709-5129 or emailing us at cybercops@fortsmithpd.org.

<http://www.skype.com/download/skype/iphone/>

