



## Social Media APP Bulletin



**MyLOL**

MyLOL bills itself as the ‘#1 teen dating site in the US, Australia, UK and Canada’ and claims to have more than 300,000 members around the world. It invites users to meet ‘thousands of teenagers like you’ and then goes on to describe how users can ‘chat with members or privately with someone.’

It’s not the first time concerns have been raised about dating apps aimed at young people, back in November, the NSPCC warned against new app Yellow, labelled ‘Tinder for teens’, which could be used by predators to groom youngsters.

Surrey Police have shared concerns about a new App, MyLOL which encourages young people to share photos and chat online privately with other members. Advice is for parents to be vigilant and, if appropriate, to spend time talking to their child about the app and if necessary delete it and block the website.

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**CHATSTEP**

CHATSTEP is an encrypted, web based, instant messaging platform hosted in Canada.

The website has the facility for a user to create or join an existing public chat room, and then chat and share images with other users. There is also the ability to password protect chat rooms to make them 'private'. Users may upload images and share URL links within the chat rooms and it is understood that up to 20 users may enter and communicate within chat rooms at one time.

On average the CEOP Command are receiving 30 referrals per day reporting users for uploading indecent images of children and are currently working through a backlog. This site is a growing trend and a hotspot for people looking to share IIOC.

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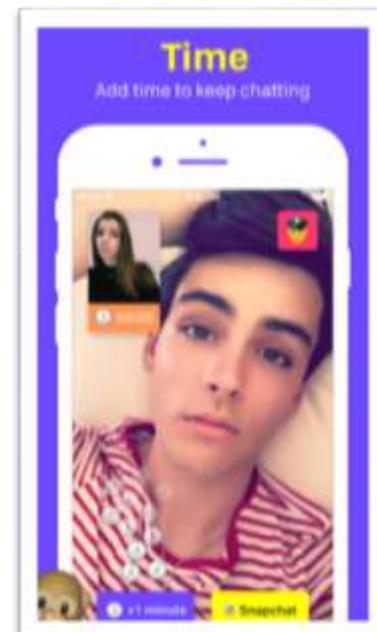


**MONKEY**

MONKEY is an iPhone app that allows you to facetime strangers and linking yourselves by snapchat. Creators say the video chat app is essentially “Chatroulette, without the pervs.”, which seems too early to say. The app randomly connects you to a person anywhere in the world and gives you 10 seconds to accept the chat based on age, sex and location. You have to mutually opt-in to a chat, in other words, rather than opting-out like with Chatroulette.

Safety features include a report button on screen, which can be used to easily report and block inappropriate monkey business, however that person is free to continue talking to others.

Although not currently seen in the South West with regards to CSE it is an app to watch out for given its likely take up by young persons.



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With the internet and apps evolving every week it can be easy to feel like technology is moving too fast for us, however it doesn't change the fact that young people will always seek to interact with technology and will always require our advice and support when online.

Below are a number of resources to help educate adults and young people around the issue of online safety and app security:

The **UK safer internet centre**; where you can find e-safety tips, advice and resources to help children and young people stay safe online.

The **Revenge porn hotline**; the only organisation providing such a service in the UK, providing support and advice to the victims of the non-consensual sharing of intimate images and cyber-enabled blackmail (known as sextortion).

**POSH (The Professionals Online Safety Helpline)**; The Professionals Online Safety Helpline is a free service for all professionals and volunteers working with children and young people. It provides signposting, advice and mediation to resolve online safety issues staff face about themselves, such as protecting professional identity and online harassment, or problems affecting young people, for example cyber-bullying or sexting issues. Where appropriate we can also provide advice or facilitate in the removal on harmful content. POSH have created good relationships with many of the giant tech companies and are a great place to start if you have any concerns with a particular site or App.

[UK Safer internet centre](#) [Professionals Online Safety Helpline](#) [Revenge porn hotline](#) [Protecting young people from online grooming](#)



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