CYBERBULLYING DEFINED

What is Cyberbullying?

Michael Nuccitelli, Psy.D.
N.Y.S. Licensed Psychologist
iPredator Inc.
New York, U.S.A.
(347) 871-2416

SEPTEMBER 22, 2014
IPREDATOR INC.
New York, USA
What is Cyberbullying?

Michael Nuccitelli, Psy.D., a NYS licensed psychologist, certified forensic consultant and author of the Information Age darkside of human consciousness construct, iPRedator, provides readers with an overview and definitions of cyberbullying, cyberbullying tactics, iPRedator and his pediatric internet safety and cyberbullying prevention character named Dr. Internet Safety. Dr. Nuccitelli posits that Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and classic bullying have merged to become the pediatric social catastrophe called Cyberbullying. Despite most adults feeling there is little difference between classic bullying and cyberbullying, Dr. Nuccitelli argues that cyberbullying is far more insidious to a child’s maturational development and society as a whole. This paper addresses these issues.

Cyberbullying is a pediatric phenomenon including the dynamics of victimization, aggression, control & manipulation. It is the addition of the artificial and abstract electronic universe, known as cyberspace, which the cyberbully, target and bystander are at a much higher risk of carrying these negative interpersonal traits into adulthood. Whereas classic bullying is generally considered a developmental issue, fading away as the child moves into adulthood, this writer believes the psychological, interpersonal and technological aspects of cyberbullying are more likely to be carried into adulthood and used in relationships when disagreement, power struggles and conflict are involved.

Classic bullying certainly has not ceased to exist, but cyberbullying has become the primary vehicle by which the harm inflicted upon the target child is primarily psychological rather than physical in classic bullying. Prior to the Information Age, a
target child was bullied by one or more aggressors who all mostly resided within a specific geographical region. The tactics used by the classic bully included physical, emotional and many of the known bullying tactics of exclusion and denigration. In rare circumstances, the neighborhood, student body and local community were privy to these events. Unless the bullying events led to serious criminal or violent outcomes, rarely if ever did the town or adjacent county know of these conflicts.

Thanks to the Information Age, social media and the ability to rapidly obtain, disseminate and exchange information using information technology, the proverbial "old fashioned" social problem of bullying between minors has drastically changed. No longer can a child be bullied, and at the end of being assaulted and/or teased, return home and neighborhood for safety. For those Information Age adults, who were bullied as children and reading this paper, imagine what it must feel like to be cyberbullied. The following passage is provided to help you envision the experience.

"You leave school after being pushed, teased and taunted. You sit on the bus or while walking home, check your mobile device and read defamatory text messages and comments the cyberbully and his/her friends have been posting in social sites. You arrive home, turn on your desktop to finish homework or play an online video game and the friends of the lead cyberbully continue with their taunting and harassment. It's now the weekend, a holiday or summer break from school and still the online and offline humiliation continues. You can't tell your parents, teachers or other adults fearing they will call the school or the cyberbullies parents, which will lead to more embarrassment and harassment by the cyberbully, his/her friends and your peers for involving adults. With nowhere to turn, your perceptual world comes to the following three perceptual conclusions: Powerless, Useless and Defenseless."

**Cyberbullied Child's Perceptual Conclusions**

**Powerless, Useless & Defenseless**

---

[Image: Cyberbullied Child's Perceptual Conclusions]

[Source: www.iPredator.net]
In the Information Age, physical strength, size and supporting peer group support are no longer attributes required to torment other children. A cyberbully can be any size, gender or interpersonal skill level. Unlike classic bullying, cyberbullying occurs within the hidden realm of cyberspace and non-internet enabled electronic devices. Humanity thrives at the beginning of the Information Age, yet no one knows the depths children will go in their developmentally dysfunctional and deceptive practices to harm other children for the sake of peer acceptance and recognition. Until humankind accepts cyberbullying requires immediate attention, online aggression and maladaptive social functioning will continue to grow among Information Age children.

Although this writer may be viewed as presenting superfluous concepts within this paper, his redundancy serves to ensure the reader does not forget specific core beliefs he is attempting to impart. Every child who habitually uses cyberbullying tactics to torment and humiliate another child will one day become an adult. Assuming the best predictor of future behavior is past behavior, a cyberbully child turned adult will assuredly use Information and Communications Technology to manage interpersonal conflicts with loved ones, coworkers and their children. To prevent this from happening, children of the Information Age must be persistently reminded to use information technology, social media and cyberspace as tools for adaptive purposes, as opposed to, nefarious or malevolent endeavors.

“The Information Age technocentric concept of being "connected" has become a paradoxical disconnection causing humanity to lose their instinctual drives for social cohesion, allegiance and selflessness. As dependency upon Information and Communications Technology [ICT] spreads throughout the collective human consciousness, the care for neighbors’ withers and online connections are deemed more valuable than reality based relationships”. Michael Nuccitelli, Psy.D. (2014)

**Cyberbullying**

Cyberbullying is defined as a recurrent and sustained pattern of cyber-attacks by a child or children who target other children using Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Cyberbullying is harmful, repeated and hostile aggressive behaviors designed to subjugate a targeted minor. Whereas classic bullying typically involves face-to-face interactions and non-digital forms of communication, cyberbullying requires ICT to be the primary tool for delivering the aggressor’s information and may never involve face-to-face encounters.

Although most cyberbullied children know the identity of their assailant, the "veil of anonymity" offered by cyberspace has created what this writer has termed "Cyberbullying in Absentia". Cyberbullying in Absentia describes a type of cyberbully who targets children, but remains anonymous to their target. They may know their target offline, but in cyberspace they maintain their anonymity striving to ensure their identity is unknown.
By definition, classic & cyberbullying occurs among minors. When adults engage in cyberbullying themed online activities, it is termed Cyber Harassment, Internet Trolling or Cyberstalking depending on the style of cyber attacks. Although the terms “bullying” and “cyberbullying” tends to be included when describing adult intimidation behaviors in contemporary culture, cyberbullying is reserved for minors 18 years old and under. Like classic bullying, cyberbullying is harmful, repeated and hostile behaviors used to manipulate, control, taunt, deprecate, threaten & defame a targeted minor. Different from classic bullying, cyberbullying requires Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to be the primary tool used to victimize another child.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

Information and Communications Technology (ICT): Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is an umbrella term used to define any electronic or digital communication device or application used to obtain, exchange or disseminate information. ICT stresses the role of unified communications and the integration of
telecommunications, which enable users to create, access, store, transmit and manipulate information. ICT consists of all forms of telecommunication, information technology, broadcast media, audio and video processing, transmission and network based control and monitoring functions. ICT has rapidly become one of the basic building blocks of modern society.

The importance of ICT to humanity lies upon a continuum of relevance ranging from minimal impact to vital requirement regarding an ICT user’s day to day activities. For some, ICT and cyberspace are nothing more than tools of convenience for conducting their responsibilities. For others, their social, scholastic, business and/or financial affairs disseminated via ICT are crucial to their self-esteem, self-worth, success and perceptual world. ICT has changed the way humanity interacts, exchanges and accesses information. Smartphones, mobile device technology and social media are the latest in a succession of advancements growing at a feverish pace. It is often hard to fathom that the Internet, used by two billion plus people globally, only celebrated its 20th birthday in 2011. As stated above, Information and Communications Technology is the tool used by which cyberbullies identify, target and terrorize other children.

**Bullying**

Bullying, or classic bullying, is a term used to define recurrent and sustained verbal and/or physical attacks by one or more child(s) towards another child who is unable or unwilling to deescalate the engagement. It may involve verbal harassment, physical assault, coercion, intimidation, humiliation and taunting. Bullying is comprised of a combination of five types of pediatric abuse including social, sexual, emotional, verbal and physical exploitation.

Bullying requires both the assailant and target to be minors. Adult forms of bullying are termed Harassment, Stalking & Slander. Despite variants in definition, bullying involves abuse between two or more minors. Classic bullying requires face-to-face interactions within the repertoire of aggressive behaviors. Bullying appears to be a pediatric phenomenon that has existed throughout the course of human civilization. Although bullying involves the psychological arenas of manipulation, humiliation and verbal aggression, classic bullies primarily used their physical attributes and aggression to shape their target. Not that the Information Revolution brought the end to traditional bullying, but has introduced an entirely new assailant/victim dimension played out in cyberspace.

"Society is being lulled into a technological false sense of trust by taking digital information and online peer connections at face value. Like the child in the fairy tale, "Little Red Riding Hood", innocently wandering through the forest, humanity erroneously believes that the "Wolf" is whoever he claims to be. Just as Little Red Riding Hood, humankind is in grave danger of falling prey to the Information Age iPredator lycanthrope." Michael Nuccitelli, Psy.D. (2014)
Cyberbullying Tactics

Educators, parents and all American communities must treat cyberbullying as a societally toxic phenomenon. To thwart this growing epidemic, it is paramount society becomes educated on the tactics cyberbullies use to taunt and victimize other vulnerable minors. It should never be forgotten that children who create, implement and experience power from cyberbullying eventually become adults. It does not take much speculation to quickly conclude that an adult with years to hone their cyber attack skills can become a lethal weapon using Information and Information Technology to devastate others.

Cyberbullying tactics is a concept created by this writer to describe the variety of methodologies cyberbullies use to taunt, threaten, humiliate and deprecate another child. The most important goal for the reader and all adult online users is to become familiar with the cyberbullying strategies used in relationship to the tactics & methods minors use to harm other minors. Furthermore, many of the tactics used by children of the Information Age are also used by adult ICT users engaged in cyber harassment, cyberstalking and cybercrime. As humanity increasingly becomes dependent upon mobile device technology, the range of cyberbullying tactics will assuredly grow.
For children born prior to the Information Age, bullying existed and was traumatizing, but primarily centered on physical intimidation to exert control over the target child. For those who were a target, there was a beginning and end with an eventual escape. Information Age children do not have this luxury. The art & science of cyberbullying has enabled an interpersonal victimization dynamic to where a target child can be teased, taunted and humiliated twenty four hours a day, seven days a week and three hundred and sixty five days a year.

"Within the skewed relationship of cyberbullying, the cyberbully symbolically becomes the puppeteer using the strings of manipulation to control their target without identification is they so decide. Contemporary adults must equate cyberbullying with a Puppeteer and Puppet metaphor to truly fathom what a target child experiences. It’s no longer Walt Disney’s "Pinocchio" world for the InfoAge child." Michael Nuccitelli, Psy. D. (2014)

**Cyberbullying Definition Revisited**

**Cyberbullying:** Cyberbullying is defined as threatening or disparaging information directed at a target child delivered through Information and Communications Technology (ICT). Similar to classic bullying, cyberbullying is harmful, repeated and hostile behavior intended to taunt, embarrass, torment, deprecate & defame a targeted child. Dissimilar to classic bullying is cyberbullying including a phenomenon called
"Cyberbullying by proxy". Cyberbullying by proxy is when a cyberbully encourages or persuades other ICT users to engage in deprecating and harassing a target child.

Cyberbullying by proxy is a dangerous form of cyberbullying because adults may become accomplices to the cyberbully and may not know they are cyber attacking a minor from their community. It may sound preposterous to adults, but it is a reality of cyberspace when the offender and victim can be unknown entities and never meeting face-to-face or residing hundreds of miles away.

Cyberbullies are usually motivated by a need for peer acceptance and/or power and control. A small percentage of cyberbullies engage in these maladaptive behaviors out of ignorance of the distress they cause a target child. The most malevolent form of cyberbully, the Narcissistic Cyberbully, feels minimal remorse for the harm they inflict upon their victim. It has been speculated that children view the real world and the online or virtual world as part of a seamless continuum. Unable to differentiate reality from virtual reality, victims of online bullying can easily be psychologically traumatized and cyberbullies themselves. When a minor engages in cyberbullying related activities that meet criteria for iPredator, the child has entered a realm that can easily transform their personality construct as adults.

iPredator

iPredator: A person, group or nation who, directly or indirectly, engages in exploitation, victimization, coercion, stalking, theft or disparagement of others using Information and Communications Technology [ICT]. iPredators are driven by deviant fantasies, desires for power and control, retribution, religious fanaticism, political reprisal, psychiatric illness, perceptual distortions, peer acceptance or personal and financial gain. iPredators can be any age or gender and are not bound by economic status, race, religion or national heritage.

iPredator is a global term used to distinguish anyone who engages in criminal, coercive, deviant or abusive behaviors using ICT. Central to the construct is the premise that Information Age criminals, deviants and the violently disturbed are psychopathological classifications new to humanity. Whether the offender is a cyberbully, cyberstalker, cyber harasser, internet troll, cybercriminal, online sexual predator, cyber terrorist, online child pornography consumer/distributor or engaged in nefarious cyber deception, they fall within the scope of iPredator. The three criteria used to define an iPredator include:

I. A self-awareness of causing harm to others, directly or indirectly, using ICT.
II. The usage of ICT to obtain, tamper with, exchange and deliver harmful information.
III. A general understanding of Cyberstealth used to engage in criminal or deviant activities or to profile, identify, locate, stalk and engage a target.

Unlike human predators prior to the Information Age, iPredators rely on the multitude of benefits offered by Information and Communications Technology [ICT]. These
assistances include exchange of information over long distances, rapidity of information exchanged and the seemingly infinite access to data available. Malevolent in intent, iPredators rely on their capacity to deceive others using ICT in the abstract and artificial electronic universe known as cyberspace. Therefore, as the internet naturally offers all ICT users anonymity, if they decide, iPredators actively design online profiles and diversionary tactics to remain undetected and untraceable.

**Cyberstealth**, a sub-tenet of iPredator, is a covert method by which iPredators attempt to establish and sustain complete anonymity while they engage in ICT activities planning their next assault, investigating innovative surveillance technologies or researching the social profiles of their next target. Concurrent with the concept of Cyberstealth is iPredator Victim Intuition [IVI]. An iPredator’s IVI is their aptitude to sense a target’s ODDOR [Offline Distress Dictates Online Response], online & offline vulnerabilities, psychological weaknesses, technological limitations, increasing their success of a cyber-attack with minimal ramifications.

"Although the World Wide Web, Telecommunications, Digital Technology & Mobile Device Technology are immensely beneficial tools to society, a growing segment of humankind fails to be aware that tools have many different purposes. When chosen for nefarious reasons, Information and Communications Technology are tools that can become lethal weapons". Michael Nuccitelli, Psy.D. (2012)

**Dr. Internet Safety**

**Dr. Internet Safety**: Dr. Internet Safety (aka, Doc iSafety) is an abstract pediatric internet safety character that educates tweens, teens and adult caregivers on cyberbullying, cyberstalking prevention, online sexual predator identification, cyber
security, internet addiction and developmentally appropriate iPredator concepts. Dr. Internet Safety is developmental psychology and adolescent maturation savvy in relationship to Information Age tweens and teens.

Dr. Internet Safety accepts and communicates to children supporting their perceptual distortion of viewing themselves as being more technology, social media and cyber safety skilled then their adult counterparts. From a sociological standpoint, Dr. Internet Safety seeks to make all K-12 educational systems include internet safety classes compulsory for all American school districts. Lastly, Dr. Internet Safety has graduate level experience in iPredator profiling, cyber deception and the Information Age Education triad of Humility, Prevention Education and non-denominational Family Values.

"By virtue of the proverbial "cloak of anonymity" so conveniently provided by Information and Communications Technology and cyberspace, iPredators troll online with a distinct advantage. Like a chameleon, they revel in the luxury of representing themselves in any way they see fit to successfully attack their targets". http://www.ipredator.co/Michael Nuccitelli, Psy.D. (2012)

Cyberbullying Risk Assessments

I. Cyberbully Abuser Checklist [CBAC]
II. Cyberbully Target Checklist [CBTC]
III. iPredator Probability Inventory-Cyberbully Abuser [IPI-CBA]
IV. iPredator Probability Inventory-Cyberbully [IPI-CB]
Cyberbullying Articles & Webpages

Cyberbully Triad

The Cyberbullying Triad is a term used to describe the 3 typologies of children that harm other children using Information Technology. This writer’s terms to categorize cyberbullies include the Ignorant Cyberbully, Righteous Cyberbully & Narcissistic Cyberbully. Of the three profiles, the Narcissistic Cyberbully is the most problematic having the highest probability of engaging in malevolent and nefarious online activities as an adult.

iPredator Web Page: Cyberbully Triad
Direct Article Download: Cyberbully Triad PDF Paper

Cyberbullying Tactics 2014

Cyberbullying continues to grow devastating both pre-pubescent and adolescent children. Unlike pre-Information Age bullying, cyberbullies and their tactics are primarily designed and instituted in the hidden realm of cyberspace. No one knows the depths Information Age children will venture in their practices to harm other children. NYS Licensed Psychologist, Dr. Michael Nuccitelli has published his 2014 Cyberbullying Tactics for review and free download. Cyberbullying Tactics 2015 is scheduled for release, at no cost, in time for October’s National Bullying Prevention Month.

iPredator Web Page: Cyberbullying Tactics
Direct PDF Article Download: Cyberbullying Tactics PDF Paper

Cyberbullying Facts

Cyberbullying facts, prevention education tips & resources are presented for download, at no cost, for parents, educators & pediatric professionals. Author of the Information Age Forensics construct, iPredator, Dr. Nuccitelli has compiled helpful information regarding both the cyberbully and cyberbully victim. Given that a significant segment of cyberbullies fit criteria for iPredator, he also presents his formal definitions for Dark Psychology, Cyberstealth, iPredator Bridge & Cyberstealth.

iPredator Web Page: Cyberbullying Facts
Direct PDF Article Download: Cyberbullying Facts PDF Paper

Cyberbully Mind

The Cyberbully Mind is a brief introduction to the psychodynamics of cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is defined as the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), by a minor, to verbally and/or physically attack another minor, who is unable or
unwilling to deescalate the engagement. Given that the vast majority of this abuse occurs in cyberspace, the factors, drives and motivations for cyberbullying are explored.

**iPredator Web Page: Cyberbully Mind**

**Direct PDF Article Download: Cyberbully Mind PDF Paper**

---

![Ask Your Child, Three Questions](image)

I. Have You Cyberbullied Someone?
II. Have You Been Cyberbullied?
III. Have You Witnessed Cyberbullying?

100% of Teens Answer "Yes" to at Least One!

www.ipredator.net

---

**Michael Nuccitelli, Psy.D.**

**Michael Nuccitelli, Psy.D.** Dr. Nuccitelli founded iPredator Inc. in September 2011 to provide educational, advisory and investigative products & services to consumers and organizations addressing cyberbullying, cyberstalking, online child predation, cybercrime, cyber harassment, cyber terrorism, internet addiction, online deception and the new fields of Cybercriminal & ICT Psychodynamics. Dr. Nuccitelli is pioneering. iPredator Inc.'s goal is to reduce victimization, abuse, theft and disparagement from online assailants.

In addition to assisting online users, iPredator Inc.’s mission is to one day initiate a nationally sustained educational & awareness internet safety campaign for children and American online users with the help of private, state and federal agencies. In June, 2013, iPredator Inc. officially launched their website, iPredator, along with their criminal/cybercriminal blog, Dark Psychology and internet safety blog, Dr. Internet
Safety. At their sites, they offer an enormous database of free information for visitors covering the vast range of online assailants, internet safety, cybercriminal minds, darkside of cyberspace, cyber psychology and cybercriminal psychology.

As founder, Dr. Nuccitelli became interested in the psychology and profiling of those who use Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to abuse, steal, taunt and victimize others online in 2009. In 2012, Dr. Nuccitelli and his colleagues grew even more determined to develop victimization prevention & intervention strategies for vulnerable online users utilizing education, investigation, legal, law enforcement and information technology experts.

"The prime targets sought by iPredators are online users not intellectually, psychologically and technologically equipped. Prime iPredator targets lack internet safety savvy, heightened levels of awareness online, a healthy level of skepticism, comprehensive digital citizenship practices and C3 (cyber safety, cyber security and cyber ethics) plans". Michael Nuccitelli, Psy.D. (2012)

iPredator Inc.

iPredator Inc. is a New York State based Internet Safety & Forensics company founded in September 2011 providing products & services regarding cyberbullying, cyber harassment, cyberstalking, cybercrime, internet defamation, cyber terrorism, online sexual predation, internet trolls, internet addiction, online child pornography, online deception, cyber-attacks and the new fields they are pioneering termed, Cybercriminal Psychology & Cybercriminal Profiling. Created by a NYS licensed psychologist and forensic consultant, Michael Nuccitelli Psy.D., their goal is to reduce victimization, theft and disparagement from online assailants.

For visitors interested in learning more about Dark Psychology & iPredator, outside their parent website, please visit their many social site profiles. Dr. Nuccitelli and iPredator Inc. consultants are always available, at no cost, to interact with media and consult with online users. To contact Dr. Nuccitelli about training, education, investigation or consultation, please email him at drnucc@ipredatorinc.com or via phone at 347-871-2416.

I. iPredator Website: https://www.ipredator.co/
II. iPredator Construct: https://www.ipredator.co/ipredator/
III. Dark Psychology: https://www.ipredator.co/ipredator/dark-psychology/
IV. Dr. Internet Safety Blog: https://drinternetsafety.com/
V. Dark Psychology Blog: https://darkpsychology.co/

“In nature, wild animals stalk and measure their prey using stealth and tactical strategies increasing their probability of success while decreasing potential for injury. iPredators also use stealth, Cyberstealth, to stalk online users increasing the probability of achieving their aims, while decreasing their potential of identification and punishment.” Michael Nuccitelli, Psy.D. (2012)
Michael Nuccitelli, Psy.D.
N.Y.S. Licensed Psychologist
iPredator Inc.
New York, U.S.A.
Ph: (347) 871-2416
Email: drnucc@ipredatorinc.com
Website: iPredator

iPredator Internet Safety Cyberbullying Page
Michael Nuccitelli, Psy.D. | What is Cyberbullying?
Visit iPredator to download, at no cost, information about cyberbullying, cyberbullying tactics & cyberbullying prevention by iPredator Inc.
https://www.ipredator.co/michael-nuccitelli-cyberbullying/
Article Quotes

“The Information Age technocentric concept of being “connected” has become a paradoxical disconnection causing humanity to lose their instinctual drives for social cohesion, allegiance and selflessness. As dependency upon Information and Communications Technology [ICT] spreads throughout the collective human consciousness, the care for neighbors’ withers and online connections are deemed more valuable than reality based relationships”. Michael Nuccitelli, Psy.D. (2014)

"Society is being lulled into a technological false sense of trust by taking digital information and online peer connections at face value. Like the child in the fairy tale, "Little Red Riding Hood", innocently wandering through the forest, humanity erroneously believes that the "Wolf" is whoever he claims to be. Just as Little Red Riding Hood, humankind is in grave danger of falling prey to the Information Age iPredator lycanthrope." Michael Nuccitelli, Psy.D. (2014)

"By virtue of the proverbial "cloak of anonymity" so conveniently provided by Information and Communications Technology and cyberspace, iPredators troll online with a distinct advantage. Like a chameleon, they revel in the luxury of representing themselves in any way they see fit to successfully attack their targets". Michael Nuccitelli, Psy.D. (2012)

"The prime targets sought by iPredators are online users not intellectually, psychologically and technologically equipped. Prime iPredator targets lack internet safety savvy, heightened levels of awareness online, a healthy level of skepticism, comprehensive digital citizenship practices and C3 (cyber safety, cyber security and cyber ethics) plans” Michael Nuccitelli, Psy.D. (2012)

"Although the World Wide Web, Telecommunications, Digital Technology & Mobile Device Technology are immensely beneficial tools to society, a growing segment of humankind fails to be aware that tools have many different purposes. When chosen for nefarious reasons, Information and Communications Technology are tools that can become lethal weapons". Michael Nuccitelli, Psy.D. (2012)

Article Resources

4. Princeton University: http://www.princeton.edu/~achaney/tmve/wiki100k/docs/Information_Age.html
5. Ball State University: http://cms.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/its/unifiedcommunications
6. Florida Center for Instructional Technology: http://uwf.edu/krasmuss/tcuses.html
7. Massachusetts Institute of Technology: https://ist.mit.edu/security/mobile_devices
8. Chicago Kent School of Law: http://www.kentlaw.edu/cyberlaw/resources/whatis.html
11. Lake Superior State University: http://www.lssu.edu/hr/documents/HarassmentBrochure.pdf
15. iPredator: https://www.ipredator.co/
16. Dark Psychology: https://darkpsychology.co/
17. Dr. Internet Safety: https://drinternetssafety.com/

iPredator Inc.
New York, U.S.A.
Ph: (347) 871-2416
Website: iPredator