

Be Informed - New Social Networking Sites to be Aware of.

Technology moves on at such a pace and new ways to communicate are being developed at an alarming rate. Do you know if your child is using either of the following apps to chat with their friends? Read on to find out more.....

Tango is a leading mobile messaging service with more than 250 million registered members around the world. Evolved from its beginnings in 2009 as a popular, free, cross platform video and voice calling app, Tango combines communication, social networking, and content in a single platform. Tango claims to give its members more fun and engaging ways of connecting with those they care about through social networking, playing games, sharing music, lively animated surprises, and a whole lot more.

It's platform provides high quality video that will work cross-platform over 3G, 4G and WiFi networks. In September 2010, the Tango app was launched and in its first 10 days, more than one million people downloaded the app.

MeowChat is an instant messaging app, much like WhatsApp or Facebook Messenger, but it is categorized as a social networking app. It does, however, incorporate dating app elements like matching people based on location that made Tinder very popular. It also features cartoon cats, hence its name.

The company's advertising department sent a pop-up message to users of Facebook, asking them to invite their friends to use MeowChat, opening up huge potential for new customers already using social media. Their tactic proved successful as MeowChat is the most downloaded app in the UK and Australia, as well as other countries in the world.

So what's MeowChat all about? The company claims that *"it is a fun way to chat and meet new friends. Get matched instantly with new people nearby or around the world. Jump in a random 1-on-1 or group chat today and chat with millions of others on MeowChat!*

Set out to explore the world or fly to a random country. There are interesting people to chat with all over the world on Meow app".

Where instant messaging apps typically connect users only to individuals already part of their contacts list, MeowChat takes connecting people together by making random chat rooms available. By default, people in the same country can connect with each other but it is possible to browse a world map and strike up a conversation in any location. To start a random chat, just press the big orange cat at the bottom.

It also improves upon what Tinder has started by matching people beyond location. MeowChat users can sign up using Facebook accounts, but can tweak profiles to add as much information as they want. The more information the app has, the better it will be in finding matches to truly define compatibility.

Signing up is easy but this can also be problematic, most especially when the signup age is set at just 13 years old – too old for our age range of children, but we know that won't stop a determined individual from registering . Although MeowChat reminds people to never request or send inappropriate images, it cannot prevent it from happening. Both group and one-on-one chats are enabled and both photo and voice messaging are supported.

MeowChat is available for iOS and Android devices.

Technology develops at a much faster rate than adults do, unfortunately children seems to have an innate ability to keep up with it, which makes it vital for us to check on what they are accessing.

The message remains the same - stay vigilant to ensure your child's safety online.